

The Combined Minutes

(ABRIDGED)

of

All Districts

of the

Evangelical Synod of North America

(Evangelical and Reformed Church)



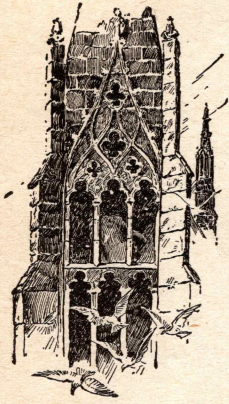
1938

Inasmuch as more than one copy of the "District Minutes" usually is superfluous for the average pastor, only one copy is sent at this time to every pastor in the Synod. Additional copies will be cheerfully furnished upon request.

J. P. Meyer, Director, Kingdom Service.

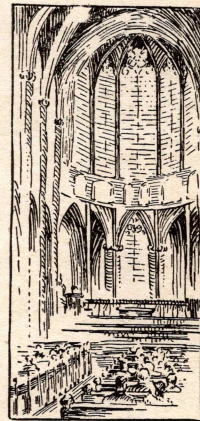


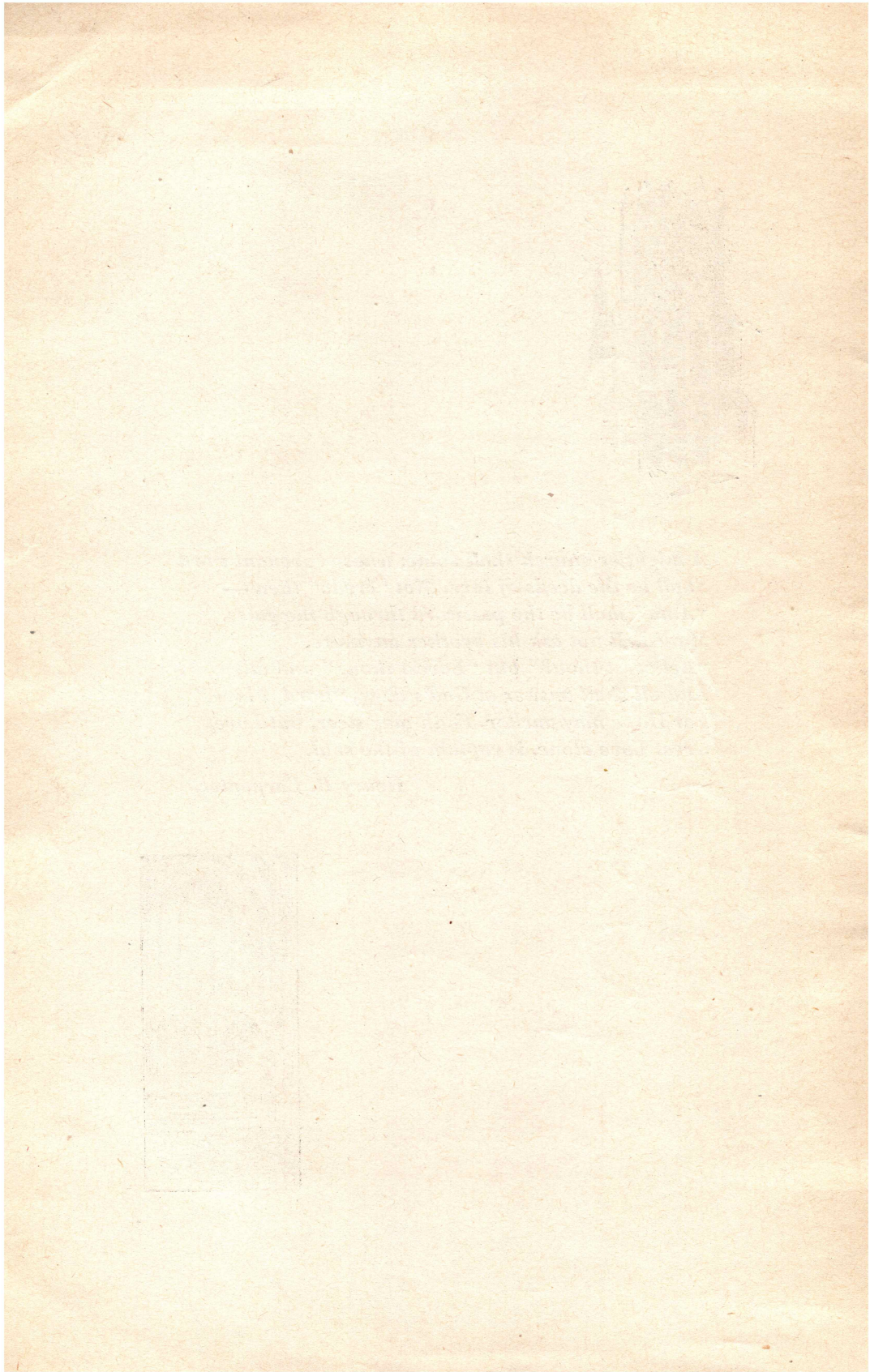
1938



*A mightier church shall come, whose covenant word
Shall be the deeds of love. Not "credo" then —
"Amo" shall be the password through the gates.
Man shall not ask his brother anymore,
"Believest thou?" but "Lovest thou?" and all,
And all shall answer at God's altar, "Lord, I love."
For Hope may anchor, Faith may steer, but Love,
Great Love alone, is captain of the soul.*

Henry B. Carpenter.





MINUTES
of the
53rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE
of the
ATLANTIC DISTRICT
Held in
Immanuel Evangelical-Lutheran Church, Williamsport, Pa.
Rev. Hy. M. Strub, Pastor
April 25-27, 1938

Services

The 53rd Annual Conference of the Atlantic District, held at Immanuel Evangelical-Lutheran Church, Williamsport, Pa., April 25-27, 1938, Rev. Henry M. Strub, pastor, proved to be a very interesting and instructive one. The program was well prepared and was carried out with dispatch. The untimely death of the Rev. Rudolph Vieweg, Elmira, New York, who died while he was addressing the Conference on Tuesday afternoon, intensified the spirit of earnestness.

The Rev. E. J. Paetzold, Irvington, N. J., was elected Moderator, and Mr. F. C. Heitkamp, Scotia, N. Y., was elected Vice-Moderator.

Devotions

Rev. Theo. Fischer, Cambridge, Md.—“The Will of God through Self-Surrender.”

Rev. E. J. F. Dettbarn, Baltimore, Md.—“Achieving the Will of God through Fellowship.”

Rev. A. W. Newell, Richmond Va.—“Achieving the Will of God through Service.”

Sermons and Addresses

The opening sermon was preached by the Rev. H. P. Vieth, Troy, N. Y., who used the subject, “The Will of God in Home and Community.” At the close of the service Communion was celebrated.

At the second worship service on Tuesday evening the address was delivered by Dr. F. A. Goetsch, who spoke on our work in Honduras.

The memorial service was conducted by the Rev. Edw. Lautenschlager, Amsterdam, N. Y.

Mr. Dan Smith, Williamsport, Pa., spoke to the laymen's meeting on “The Relationship of Men to the Church.”

The Rev. Paul Briesemeister, Schenectady, N. Y., spoke to the ministers on “The Will of God in the Church.”

The Rev. Rudolph Vieweg, Elmira, N. Y., addressed the Conference on the subject—“The Will of God in an Age of Conflict.”

The Rev. H. P. Vieth, Troy, N. Y., presented the program on Kingdom Service.

The Rev. E. R. Jaeger, East St. Louis, Ill., brought information on the New Pension Plan.

Principal Resolutions

1. The District accepts the reports of the District President, the Rev. Louis C. F. Miller, with acknowledgment of its completeness. We are fully aware of his trying year, difficult labors, and the loss of his good wife. We extend our sympathy to him and his family. We are further aware of the timeliness of our Conference motto, not only for his life, but also for the life of the world—"Thy Will Be Done."

2. The District extends its congratulations to all ministers and churches who observed anniversaries during the past year, especially to the Rev. and Mrs. H. W. Manrodt upon the celebration of their golden wedding anniversary, and to the Rev. O. Guthe and the Rev. J. Schoettl who celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their ordination. Also to the Rev. C. Schauer, who will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination in June of this year.

3. We are grateful that in spite of the depression the District has shown an increase in budget contributions this year, but we realize the great opportunity which is ours to rise in rank to the position where our budget will be raised 100 percent. We believe that the effective attack on the problem by the Kingdom Service Commission has borne fruit, and we believe that the attack should be continued. We agree with our President that each pastor and layman, attending the Conference, upon returning home should stress in their reports the necessity of reaching the goal which has been set for their respective congregations for the Kingdom Service work.

4. Since one of the conditions of the merger was the liquidation of our synodical debt, the churches of our District should strive to raise their share toward this objective. We agree with the District Council that further deficits can be avoided and the debt liquidated, if we emphasize the total budget for 1938.

5. According to the Finance Committee's report four congregations failed to contribute anything toward the Synodical Budget last year. However, a correction is to be made: St. John's, Mt. Vernon, was dismissed from membership in the Synod by action of the Atlantic District Conference of 1937. This leaves three churches which did not contribute to the Synodical Budget. The District recommends that the Council request the pastors who serve these churches to make an especial appeal so that they will contribute something toward the Budget in 1938.

6. We recommend that \$106.00 be granted from the District Treasury to the Pension Board chairman of the Atlantic District for the year 1938 to make up the difference in relief due to the Pastors Schoettl and Jungfer, Sr.

7. The District recommends the acceptance of the resignation of the Rev. R. Stave of Bayonne, N. J., from membership in the Evangelical Synod of North America, upon condition that he become a member of another established church.

8. We join the entire Synod in mourning the loss from the ranks of the Church of brother H. L. Streich. May his beautiful life of unselfish service, his deep interest in the work of the Kingdom, his consecration to Christ's cause, and the fine fellowship we have had with him in a common endeavor, be ever before us and spur us on to greater faithfulness.

9. The District requests that the solution passed by the General Synod in Cleveland be adhered to in fact as well as in appearance: "That the debts of the Boards that were incurred before the union of the two Churches shall be met by the respective Churches which the several Boards then represented."

10. Whereas neither the "E" group nor the "R" group have complied with the understanding that all debts of each group should be liquidated before the final consummation of the merger, and

Whereas serious doubts have arisen concerning the status of property and debts under the merger,

Be it resolved:

That the Atlantic District without prejudice to the merger itself overture the General Synod to postpone putting into effect the Constitution and continue to function under the Plan of Union until the financial problems involving property rights and debt payments shall have been solved satisfactorily and invaluable charter rights shall be preserved.

The Atlantic District overtures the General Synod to charge the Executive Committee with the responsibility of appointing a committee to study the entire financial, property, and debt problem, and to report to the next General Synod.

12. The Atlantic District concurs with the Director of Our Larger Kingdom Service, that the greatest need of the Church is a right mind and a warm heart in carrying out the work of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. With gratitude to God the District takes note that the work of the Rev. J. P. Meyer has met with commendable success, and we express our sincere appreciation for all his untiring efforts.

13. The Atlantic District feels that the logic of all past events points to the great desirability of an early liquidation of our debt. If properly approached and informed, our people will surely be found willing to share in this vital task.

14. The Atlantic District regrets that so many of our churches continue to deprive themselves of the privilege of sharing in the Larger Kingdom Task. To remedy this situation, the Kingdom Service Committee should seek new methods of approach by which old prejudices may give way to some vital interest in the common task.

15. The Atlantic District is convinced that the periodical, "The King-

dom Spokesman," with slight modifications, should be continued, and that for the purpose of distribution it be issued at the various seasons of the year, such as Easter, Pentecost, etc.

16. We appreciate the efforts of the Elmhurst-Eden Advance Committee and bespeak for them the cooperation of all pastors and churches.

17. The Atlantic District takes note of the fine beginning that the Rev. D. D. Baker has made as Director of Missionary Education, encourages its congregations to cooperate with him in instituting schools of missions and requests that the inclusion of missionary education material of both home and foreign missions in the Sunday school curricula be hastened.

18. In connection with missionary promotion the Atlantic District would emphasize that the congregations which have the widest Kingdom outlook accomplish most in their local work, for the light that shines farthest shines brightest at home.

19. The Atlantic District agrees with the Board of Home Missions that successful merging of smaller churches with one another or with larger churches is dependent on cooperation between District Councils and District Missions Boards in preparing the members of the respective churches for such a merger.

20. The Atlantic District supports the overture to accept the challenge of the Bremen Mission and of Christ's cause among the Ewe people of British West Africa and to undertake the support of Dr. Erich Voehringer as our missionary.

21. The Atlantic District concurs in the resolutions adopted by the Board of Publications, August 31, 1937:

a) "That the financial responsibility for the publishing of the 'Messenger' be assumed by the General Synod," and

b) "That the editorial and business office of the 'Messenger' be consolidated and located in St. Louis, Mo., the present place of publication, closing the Philadelphia office, with the necessary revision of working personnel wherever duplication is found."

22. With all due respect to the fine work done by other denominations in the field of hymnody, the Atlantic District feels it would be a tragic mistake to give up our own rich heritage in this field, and surrender our function in one of the most important departments of our worship life. The publication of our own hymnal is the only sound procedure, sound even from the economic angle.

23. The Atlantic District recommends to the General Synod the amendment of the By-Laws 105 of the Constitution and By-Laws adopted by the General Synod in 1936, of the Evangelical and Reformed Church as reported on page 134 of Annual Report of Synodical Officers and Boards, 1938.

24. The Atlantic District accepts the outline of the new Pension Fund.

25. The Atlantic District petitions the General Synod to make overtures to the United States Social Security Board to make it possible for

all employees of the Church, who are not covered by the Pension and Relief System of the Church to be covered by the Government Pension Fund.

In great sadness because of the overwhelmingly sudden death of the Rev. Rudolph Vieweg while he was delivering a conference address, the Atlantic District expresses its deep sorrow over the abrupt ending of the earthly life of this faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Elections

The following were elected to represent the District in the General Synod to be held in Columbus, Ohio, in June:

Ministers—Revs. Louis C. F. Miller and E. J. F. Dettbarn.

Laymen—Messrs. F. C. Heitkamp and H. W. Schultheis.

Alternates—Revs. H. M. Strub and G. Siegenthaler, and Messrs. C. Martin and F. W. Mankey.

APPROVED: L. C. F. Miller, President.

P. W. Meisenheimer, Secretary.

MINUTES
of the
42nd CONFERENCE
of the
CALIFORNIA DISTRICT
Held in
First Evangelical and Reformed Church, Pasadena, Calif.
O. F. Geisler, Pastor
May 17-18, 1938

Services

The California District met on Tuesday, May 17, in the newly acquired church of St. John's, now named the First Evangelical and Reformed Church of Pasadena, California, Rev. O. F. Geisler, pastor, for its 42nd Conference.

At 2 o'clock President Schalow called the conference to order, extending greetings and a hearty welcome to the members and guests of the conference, after which Mr. Markley of the local consistory, on behalf of the congregation, bade a cordial welcome to the conference.

The conference elected President Schalow as Moderator and the Rev. O. Nussmann as Vice-moderator.

Devotions

Rev. F. J. Schmuck—"The Need of Present-Day Application of the Words of Jesus."

Sermons and Addresses

Rev. B. E. Schalow delivered the sermon at the opening service (at which the Lord's Supper was administered), emphasizing the need of a better understanding of the spirit of the Lord and of standing courageously by our convictions.

Rev. J. Nuesch—"The Abiding City." Heb. 13: 14—Memorial.

Dr. Lishman—"Cultivate the Grace of Christian Living in Your Lives." Rom. 8: 9.

Rev. A. F. Schroeder—"The Relationship of the Church and the State."

Rev. Theo. Schulz—"The Challenge of Our Larger Kingdom Service."

Resolutions

1. We commend our mission churches and their pastors for the splendid progress they have made, for their increase in membership, in particular the First Evangelical and Reformed Church of Pasadena,

on having acquired its beautiful church property, and the Evangelical Church of Hollywood for its merger with Trinity Reformed of West Hollywood.

2. We regret that St. John's Church of San Bruno has so long been unsuccessful in securing a pastor, but rejoice that there are certain prospects of getting one in the near future.

3. We recommend the suggested division of the "E" and "R" Church into Synods, also the California District, as outlined on Page 186 of the Annual Reports to the District—1938.

4. It is with deep regret that we take note of the passing of Rev. H. L. Streich, Executive Secretary of the General Council, and the loss thereby sustained by the Synod. We welcome Dr. J. P. Meyer as his successor and wish him God's blessing.

5. We desire to put on record our appreciation of the efforts put forth by our honorable President General, Dr. F. C. Klick, and ask for him God's guidance in the difficult task ahead of him.

6. We rejoice in the fact that 1937 closed without a Synodical deficit. We urge all congregations to cooperate heartily in meeting their obligations for 1938.

7. We endorse the stand taken by the General Treasurer, Mr. F. A. Keck, in calling attention to the debt situation of the united Church. (Page 12.)

8. We respectfully request that those congregations who have not responded 100% towards their quota for debt liquidation make renewed efforts to do so, and also, that congregations having met their full obligation go the second mile, if possible.

9. We commend Dr. J. P. Meyer in his capacity as Budget Director for his splendid efforts to wipe out the Synodical debt, and assure him of our wholehearted support.

10. Concerning apportionments (page 33, sec. 1a) we approve of the minority report, with the exception that in case of its adoption provision be made for some definite regulation, so as to take into account the fact that there are those whose contributions would be so low, that the average apportionment would have to be figured accordingly.

11. Inasmuch as the provisions contained in the Plan of Union of the Evangelical Synod and the Reformed Church in the U. S. have not been fulfilled, especially that of the liquidation of the debts of both groups, the California District insists that the final adoption of the Constitution of the merged Church be postponed until such a time when these provisions have been fulfilled. The California District reaffirms its faith in the merger and requests the Evangelical Synod to continue in the merged work as heretofore.

Elections

The following were elected to represent the District at the General Synod:

Minister—Rev. A. F. Schroeder.

Layman—Mr. A. Leonhardt.

Alternates—Rev. O. F. Geisler and Mr. H. Hagen.

Adjournment

After the closing prayer by Rev. O. F. Geisler, adjournment took place at 4:00 P. M.

APPROVED: B. E. Schalow, President.

Theo. Tillmanns, Secretary.

MINUTES
of the
33rd CONFERENCE
of the
COLORADO DISTRICT
Held in
St. John Evangelical Church, Greeley, Colo.
Rev. Max Schoenhaar, Pastor
May 1-3, 1938

Services

The 33rd Conference of the Colorado District convened in St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church at Greeley, Rev. M. Schoenhaar, pastor, on May 1-3, 1938.

The opening sermon, at 7:30 P. M., was preached by the Rev. J. J. Braun, Executive Secretary of the Home Mission Board, on "Jesus Declares His Gospel," Luke 4: 16. The following German sermon was preached by Rev. W. Reitzer, Ft. Collins: "Die Macht der Busse"—Mark 1: 14-15. The Lord's Supper was celebrated, Rev. M. Schoenhaar and Rev. W. Reitzer serving as administrators.

Devotions

All morning devotions were conducted by the Rev. H. R. Gebhardt, Vice-president of the District. Topics: "The Will of God"; "The Coercion of Self-surrender"; "Outlook and Uplook Bring Visions of Good Will."

Sermons and Addresses

The evening service on Monday was led by Rev. G. T. Zucher. The sermons were preached by Rev. Theo. Wobus, Grand Junction, Ps. 19: 4—"The Acknowledgment of God, the Greatest Need of the Soul," and Rev. F. F. Steinmark, Denver, 1 Cor. 1: 18—"Die Kreuzesbotschaft." An instructive thesis was read by the Rev. G. Gaiser, Windsor, on "Gesetz und Gnade."

Resolutions

1. The Colorado District asks of all its congregations, which have not, or have not adequately, contributed to the liquidation of the synodical debt, to do their full duty to help erase this debt.
2. The Colorado District rejoices over the fact that the report of the General Treasurer for the last year shows an increased income in the Budget giving of over \$16,000.00 and that after eight years we have finally been able to give to the various Boards of our Synod the amount

which had been promised them at the beginning of the year to carry on their work without borrowing.

3. The Colorado District is in hearty agreement with the Seminary Board that we must hold the academic charter of our Seminary, but that it is more important to live up to the Christian charter of a Theological Seminary and that unless our theology serves to increase our love for God and leads us into processes of repentance and inward growth it fails of its purpose and no power will go out from this seminary nor from the church in which our graduates expect to serve.

4. The Colorado District heartily endorses the program of Elmhurst College and would ask the members of the Colorado District to use their influence to direct young people who go to college to choose Elmhurst as their college.

5. We deplore that our District raised only 52% of its synodical budget for 1937. We, the Colorado District, ask the members here, representing the different churches, to report this matter to their churches.

6. The Colorado District deplores the action taken by groups and districts in regard to delaying the consummation of the merger of the two churches and trusts the General Synod, meeting in Columbus, Ohio, will proceed along the lines of faith evidenced so far in all negotiations.

7. The Colorado District approves the division of the Church into Synods as proposed by the Committee on Constitution and Charter, and requests the General Synod to establish the Synod in which our District is to be included (Rocky Mountain Synod); provided, however, that the legal existence of this District shall continue until it shall have disposed or divested itself of all property, rights, and powers, belonging to or vested in it. The District assents to any minor changes in boundaries that may seem to the General Synod to be advisable or necessary.

Elections

The following were elected as delegates to the General Synod:

Ministers—Rev. H. R. Gebhardt.

Layman—Mr. S. G. Becker.

Alternates—Rev. M. Schoenhaar and Mr. David Engelmann.

Adjournment

The closing service at 3:35 P. M. on Tuesday, May 3, was a memorial service conducted by Rev. D. Buchmueller.

APPROVED: M. Schoenhaar, President.

D. Buchmueller, Secretary.

MINUTES
of the
47th CONFERENCE

of the
IOWA DISTRICT

Held in
Zion Evangelical Church, Lowden, Iowa
Rev. F. J. Abele, Pastor

May 2-5, 1938

Services

The Iowa District Conference opened with a very helpful service Monday evening, May 2, at 8 o'clock. The local pastor, the Rev. F. J. Abele, served at the altar. An earnest and thoughtful message was brought by the Rev. Dr. F. C. Klick, President of the Evangelical Synod, using as his text Luke 18: 8, "Nevertheless, when the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on earth?"

The Rev. F. Abele, in the name of the congregation, tendered a most sincere welcome which was accepted in well-chosen words by the President of the District, the Rev. E. Seybold.

All pastors, delegates, and a number of visitors then gathered about the Communion table, with the local pastor and Dr. Klick serving as ministrants. The thought dominating this entire evening's service was that of "Faith in God."

At the first business session of the conference, on Tuesday morning, May 3, the President and Vice-president of the District were elected as Moderator and Vice-moderator respectively.

Devotions

Rev. Geo. Pruessner—"Achieving the Will of God Through Self-surrender."

Rev. T. Boesch—"Achieving the Will of God Through Fellowship with Christ."

Rev. F. W. Budy.

Sermons and Addresses

Dr. F. C. Klick spoke to the conference on the Synodical Kingdom Service and the work of the Evangelical Synod in general.

Dr. Silas P. Bittner presented the proposed merger project of the Pension and Relief Boards of the "E" and "R" Groups.

Rev. A. VonderOhe—"Living Monumental Lives." (Memorial.)

Dr. T. Lehmann—"The Will of God for All of Life." Col. 1: 24.

Dr. T. Lehmann, President of Elmhurst College—"The Place of the Church-related College in Modern Education."

Resolutions (Principal)

1. In the light of our perturbed and confused times, the Iowa District agrees with the President of our Synod that the Church and the Church alone has the means to show the way to peace and salvation. In view of this fact, however, the Iowa District feels that the Church of Christ is only as strong and resourceful as its members, who are deeply rooted in spiritual qualities.

2. The Iowa District recognizes with gratitude the work of our departed Brother Streich, and the District joins in an expression of sympathy to the bereaved members of the family.

3. The Iowa District appreciates the splendid work and services that Dr. Klick has rendered our Evangelical Church during these trying times, and we ask for him a full measure of God's blessing in the future.

4. The Iowa District appreciates all the efforts of the Executive Committee in producing material of information and opening new sources for the deepening of the spiritual life. Especially does the District recommend the use of the "Duplex Envelopes" with printed messages.

5. The Iowa District concurs with Dr. Meyer that the debt should be reduced and that we should stay within the Budget, even at the cost of curtailment and retrenchment.

6. The Iowa District approves the division of the Church into Synods as proposed by the Committee on Constitution and Charter, and requests the General Synod to establish the Synod in which our District is to be included; provided, however, that the legal existence of this District shall continue until it shall have divested itself of all property, rights, and powers, belonging to or vested in it. The District assents to any minor changes in boundaries that may seem to the General Synod to be advisable or necessary.

7. We recommend to the congregations of the Iowa District a more intense interest in the support of our Deaconess Home and Hospital at Marshalltown and the other charitable institutions of the Synod, and resolve that the President of the District be empowered by this conference to appoint a committee which shall be charged with the cultivation of this interest in our district charge, the Deaconess Home and Hospital at Marshalltown.

8. The Iowa District is in full agreement with the authorities of Elmhurst College that the church-related college has distinct advantages over institutions of higher learning that do not espouse the cause of Christian religion. We sincerely hope this emphasis will be continued.

9. It is very gratifying to learn that Eden Seminary has in every respect become a graduate school of theology. District also points with pride to the pages 37-39 in the official reports to the districts of this

year as a true achievement on the part of Dr. S. D. Press in stating so adequately such fine Christian ideals of service for the Evangelical ministry.

10. The Iowa District urges cooperation with Dr. Timothy Lehmann on the part of our congregations in putting forth effort to secure pledges and to complete collection of pledges toward the Elmhurst-Eden Advance during the present year.

11. The District challenges both the alumni and members of the congregations with a definite call of service in recruiting prospects for and urging enrollment in Elmhurst College. It feels that by increasing the income through additional enrollment fees we will insure the permanence and growth of Elmhurst College as a church-related institution.

12. Recognizing the place of the small-town and country church in the religious life of the nation, we encourage the Home Mission Boards to make further survey of their possibilities.

13. We commend the Church Extension Board on the efficient manner in which it has administered its affairs and recommend that if possible its tried and true policy of administration be continued in the merged Church.

14. We note with satisfaction the forward steps taken by the Board of Christian Education in the developments made, namely—1. Missionary Education; 2. Centralization of the Board's editorial offices; 3. First National Conference on Christian Education; 4. The selection of representatives to the Youth Cabinet; 5. Summer schools and camps conducted as a unified project; 6. The merging of our Church-school publications; 7. The increased service of the Special Service Department; 8. Field contacts; 9. Cooperation with other Boards.

15. We urge the loyal patronage of all our church schools in the matter of using denominational periodicals and lesson materials, because the materials which your Boards of Education now publish can meet the needs of all and are of such quality that they merit our support.

16. We heartily endorse the New Pension Plan for the merged Church as submitted by the Pension Board.

17. We endorse the following overture to the General Synod in regard to amending By-Law No. 105 as follows:

"The Board of Pensions and Relief shall consist of twelve members, eight of whom shall be ministers and four shall be lay members. Ten of the members of the Board shall be elected by the General Synod and these shall elect the other two, subject to the approval of the General Council."

18. Since the publishing of the "Messenger" causes a serious deficit, we concur in the resolutions of the Board of Publications:

a) that it repeat its overture to the Executive Committee of the General Synod that the financial responsibility for the publishing of "The Messenger" be assumed by the General Synod, and

b) that for the sake of economy the editorial and business offices of the "Messenger" be consolidated and located in St. Louis, Mo.

19. We commend the Commission on Social Action for its fine work of clarifying the present-day social issues, and encourage it to continue its work.

20. We recommend that the General Synod appoint a committee with a modest financial appropriation for the study of equalizing ministers' salaries.

21. We suggest the continuance of the six-page rotogravure and the use of the moving picture as very effective methods of propagating the missionary cause.

22. We gladly note the increase in giving for the Synodical Budget and hope that the fact of finally reaching the lower mark of 65% will encourage us to work energetically to attain the full quota.

23. We expect every congregation to do its utmost in the task of liquidating our indebtedness.

24. Realizing that neither the Evangelical Synod nor the Reformed Church have met their debt liquidation requirements, which were to be accomplished prior to the merger, we recommend that both church bodies be given ample time to liquidate their debts or that at least a sound financial plan shall have been submitted by both groups to retire such obligations before the Constitution and By-Laws of the merged church be accepted and declared effective.

Received into Membership

The following were received into membership of the Evangelical Synod of North America: Revs. A. E. Bergey, Primrose, E. H. Nussmann, Hamburg, Armin Suedmeyer, New Albin, and Ralph Hunger, Le Mars.

Elections and Appointments

President: The Rev. S. Seybold, Ackley, Iowa.

Vice-president: The Rev. A. H. Bisping, 1020 Exchange St., Keokuk, Iowa.

Secretary: The Rev. Wm. Krummel, Walnut, Iowa.

Treasurer: Mr. W. H. Witte, Lowden, Iowa.

Council Members: Mr. Ralph H. Jordan, 1230 N. Seventh St., Burlington, Iowa; Mr. Ernest Kruetzfeld, Hartley, Iowa; The Rev. Carl Klein, Washington, Iowa.

Representatives on the General Council: The Rev. Theo. Thomas, Tripoli, Iowa; Mr. Henry C. Bode, 721 N. 14th St., Keokuk, Iowa.

District Counsel (appointed by the District Council): The Rev. Carl Klein.

District Kingdom Service Committee (appointed by the District Council): The Rev. A. H. Bisping, Chairman, the Rev. E. Seybold, Secretary, the Rev. Wm. Krummel, Mr. Ralph H. Jordan.

Board of Home Missions: The Rev. E. G. Bizer, Chairman, the Rev. F. J. Abele, Secretary, the Rev. F. J. Nisi, Mr. Otto Reller, Mr. Ed. Leu, Mr. Theo. Riepe.

Board of Religious Education: Pastors—W. A. Koch, A. Koelling, E. Otte; Laymen—Milton Rasche, Miss Lottie Weber, Mrs. Anna Hartmann.

Board of Examiners: Revs. J. H. Buescher, K. Fauth, C. J. Barth, Messrs. F. W. Rasche, Ed. Leu.

District Court: Revs. A. Matzner, Theo. Berlekamp, John Ruhl. Messrs. Fred Ihlenfeld, Louis Goldsmith.

Foreign Missions Committee: Revs. G. E. Hesse, S. E. Birkner, and Mr. H. F. Boeke.

Board of Pension and Relief: Revs. C. J. Barth, F. W. Budy, and K. Pfeiffer.

District Inspector Mutual Fire and Storm Insurance Association: Rev. A. Vonderohe.

District Historian: Rev. K. Fauth.

Delegates to the General Synod:

Ministers: Revs. E. Seybold, Theo. A. Thomas, F. J. Abele, A. H. Bisping.

Laymen: Messrs. W. H. Witte, R. H. Jordan, H. F. Luebke, J. H. Mueller.

Alternates: Revs. P. Kitterer, Wm. Krummel, C. Klein, J. H. Buescher and Messrs. H. Blaufuss, H. G. Voorwaart, H. Janssen, H. Bode.

APPROVED: E. Seybold, Moderator.

Wm. Krummel, Secretary.

MINUTES
of the
49th CONFERENCE
of the
INDIANA DISTRICT
Held in
St. Mark's Evangelical Church, New Albany, Indiana
Rev. F. A. Meusch, Pastor
April 25-28, 1938

Services

The Indiana District of the Evangelical Synod of North America assembled for its 49th Annual Conference from April 25-28, 1938, at the St. Mark Evangelical Church, New Albany, Indiana. The Conference motto was "Thy Will Be Done"; the Conference theme, "The Will of God for All of Life," and the Conference hymn, "Teach Me, O Lord, Thy Holy Way."

The Rev. W. R. Grunewald of Dayton, Ohio, was elected Moderator of the Conference, and Mr. J. F. Frohbieter of Evansville, Indiana, was elected Vice-moderator.

Sermons and Addresses

The opening evening worship was in charge of the Rev. R. J. Bierbaum of New Palestine, Ind., and the President of the District, the Rev. F. P. Puhlmann of Cumberland, Ind., preached the sermon on the subject, "The Will of God in Home and Community." The morning devotions were in charge of the Revs. Theo. Franke of Indianapolis, Ind., and R. Gruenke of Cincinnati, Ohio, respectively, the former speaking on the topic, "Achieving the Will of God through Self-surrender," and the latter upon the topic, "Achieving the Will of God through Fellowship with Christ." The Rev. F. G. Brune of Reading, Ohio, preached the memorial address and the communion meditation. Other Conference sermons were delivered by the Rev. Dr. Paul Press of St. Louis, Mo., on the topic "Give Ye Them to Eat," and the Rev. W. Grunewald of Dayton, Ohio, on the topic, "The Will of God in an Age of Conflict." Addresses were delivered by Mr. John F. Ruehlmann of Cincinnati, Ohio, on "Synodical Pension and Relief," the Rev. Dr. J. P. Meyer of St. Louis, Mo., on "The Cause of Our Larger Kingdom Service," the Rev. G. W. Grauer of Cincinnati, Ohio, on "The Will of God in the Life of the Church," Mr. Fred D. Diehl of Louisville, Ky., on "The Will of God in World Relationships," and the Rev. Theo. Stoerker of St. Charles, Mo., on "Our Benevolent Institutions, Their Past and Their Future."

Resolutions

1. We commend our President, the Rev. Dr. F. C. Klick, for his splendid message and we concur in his remarks relative to the Oxford Conference and its pronouncements concerning the Church, " 'Let the Church be the Church,' let it demonstrate to the unbelieving world that there really is a fellowship in Christ which binds men into a higher unity than the secular world can produce." We also believe that only then can it exert that influence in the world which will prevent a collapse of those standards that make for brotherhood and happy living together among men and nations.

2. We recognize the splendid and unselfish service rendered to the Church at large by the late Rev. H. L. Streich. We further note with deep regret the passing of many of our pastors and lay members. We pray that their devotion and consecration to Christ's cause may be ever before us to spur us on to greater faithfulness.

3. We regard the unification of the work of the Board of Religious Education, the Evangelical League Board, and the Board of Christian Education, as one of the most tangible and beneficial results of the merger. The eight splendid new publications which have taken the place of seventeen former periodicals give evidence of concerted endeavor to meet the real needs of the coming generation.

4. The Indiana District expresses its surprise over the fact that the issuing of the forthcoming Church School Hymnal was attended with practically no publicity and that no efforts were made to secure suggestions from the Church at large. In case it is not too late, we request that a prospectus of this Hymnal be presented at the General Synod at Columbus, Ohio, and suggest that uniform texts be adopted for hymns and worship materials which will appear in both hymnals.

5. The Indiana District voices its approval of the plan to transfer the property of the Dunkirk Conference Grounds to the Evangelical and Reformed Church upon final consummation of the merger. In view of the size and unwieldiness of the proposed Board of Directors, this District is in favor of having only one member from each of the ten Synods mentioned in the plan and two members-at-large from the Dunkirk area, including the Women's Auxiliary, thus reducing the total Board membership to twelve.

6. The Indiana District expresses its gratification over the continued growth of the student body at Elmhurst and is pleased to note that the enrollment of 288 in the current school year is 24 in excess of the previous high mark. Since a definite emphasis on religion is maintained and the Christian spirit is dominant in the life of the school, we recommend Elmhurst to all parents who desire for their sons and daughters a college where such factors are just as important as high scholastic rating.

7. The Indiana District heartily thanks all of its members who have retired their pledges to the Elmhurst-Eden Advance, but wishes to remind all Evangelicals that unless the unpaid 14,000 subscriptions are

paid, the original purpose of the campaign—that of raising an adequate endowment for the two schools, especially for Elmhurst—will be defeated. Since the new merger setup will force Elmhurst to operate eventually on an independent financial basis like the Reformed colleges, it is imperative that this campaign be carried through to a successful conclusion with all possible speed.

8. Resolved that the dual editorial and business offices of "The Messenger" in Philadelphia, Pa., and St. Louis, Mo., be consolidated and the offices be placed in St. Louis.

Be it further resolved that

a) the articles be such as appeal to a wider and more general audience;

b) the obituary notices be limited to death announcements.

9. Whereas we believe the Christian religion is essentially a religion of peace, and whereas the conditions in the Far East and Europe and economic insecurity in our own land are a basic threat to peace and democracy, we recommend that the secretary communicate to the President of the United States and Congressmen our protest to the Naval Appropriation Bill.

10. Resolved that we commend the President of these United States for his proposal to establish a haven for political refugees regardless of race or creed.

11. Resolved that the Church endorse social security and old age pensions as instruments of social welfare and improvement, but condemn political mismanagement.

12. Resolved that we commend the labor unions which have made room for our colored brethren, thus giving them more economic equality.

13. We look with favor upon the splendid work of the Rev. Dr. D. D. Baker as director of the Cooperative Council of Missionary Education and urge and enlist the cooperation of all Evangelical churches in this fine and worthy work.

14. We express our sincere thanks for the outstanding work done in our churches by the Rev. J. H. Schultz and Dr. E. W. Whitcomb and recommend that missionaries on furlough be used for individual churches rather than just for central mass meetings.

15. The Indiana District is pleased to note the progressive results in our synodical kingdom service work under the able leadership of our denominational headquarters, and especially commends the pastors and churches of the Indiana District for their fine share in achieving increasingly higher goals indicated by the fact that we have raised 78% of the apportionment, or \$13,000.00 over and above the paying basis of the budget.

16. The Indiana District votes special recognition to those 49 churches in the District which this year succeeded in raising their budget quota 100%. Likewise, it wishes to express its gratitude to all churches for whatever contributions they have been able to make

to the budget, or for special designations to support the various agencies and projects of our beloved Church.

17. The Indiana District rejoices in the fact that of a District Debt Liquidation quota amounting to \$45,526.68, \$25,634.96 has been contributed. It commends especially those churches who have attained the 100% mark and lays it upon the heart of those congregations which have not yet done so, to put forth every possible effort to attain a like goal, so that this indebtedness of the Synod may be liquidated.

18. The Indiana District votes that upon dissolution of the District all funds, remaining after legitimate expenses have been paid, be disbursed by the District Council.

19. The Indiana District wishes to express its confidence in the committee that is rearranging the Pension Fund and feels that it is in capable hands.

20. The Indiana District appreciates the fair consideration given all applicants and the careful handling of all funds by the Church Extension Fund Board.

21. In view of the failure of both parties of the merger to meet the obligations of debt liquidation as specifically stated in the Plan of Union and, in the face of possible legal complications which may arise, we demand of the Executive Committee of the General Synod the postponement of the General Synod for two years. In the event the General Synod cannot be postponed, then we earnestly request that the declaration of the adoption of the Constitution be postponed until such time that the conditions of the Plan of Union be met and that we continue to function as heretofore.

22. The Indiana District approves the division of the Church into Synods, as proposed by the Committee on Constitution and Charter, and requests the General Synod to establish the Synod in which our District is to be included; provided, however, that the legal existence of this District shall continue until it shall have disposed or divested itself of all property, rights, and powers, belonging to or vested in it. The District assents to any minor changes in boundaries that may seem to the General Synod to be advisable or necessary.

23. It was further resolved that if the meeting of the General Synod cannot be postponed, the Board of Directors of the Evangelical Synod arrange for a meeting of the delegates elected by the Districts preceding the meeting of the General Synod.

24. The Indiana District also resolves to authorize its delegates elected to the General Synod to act also as official delegates to a General Conference, should one be called previous to the meeting of the General Synod.

Received into Membership

The Revs. H. G. Zoeller, R. Kurz, and F. O. Rest were received into the membership of the Indiana District, and consequently into the membership of the Evangelical Synod of N. A.

Elections

The following were elected as minister and lay delegates to the General Synod, in their order:

Ministers—Revs. F. A. Meusch, F. P. Puhlmann, F. R. Daries, G. W. Grauer, W. R. Grunewald, and A. G. Schnake.

Laymen—Messrs. J. C. Fischer, H. J. Schlundt, O. Wald, Geo. W. Goebel, Fred A. Kratch, and J. F. Ruehlmann.

Alternates—Revs. R. C. Kuebler, A. Haeusser, T. Schlundt, Jr., H. C. Koch, F. G. Brune, and H. E. J. Neumann; and Messrs. Dr. P. H. Schoen, F. J. Pfeiffer, Fred S. Kixmiller, H. E. Schultz, A. T. Kockritz, and Louis C. Held.

Adjournment

All business of the Conference having been completed, the Conference adjourned at noon on Thursday, April 28, 1938.

APPROVED: F. P. Puhlmann, President.

Hilmer E. J. Neumann, Secretary.

MINUTES
of the
45th CONFERENCE
of the
KANSAS DISTRICT
Held in
Friedens Church, Bern, Kansas
April 26-28, 1938

Services

The Kansas District convened at Bern, Kansas, Friedens Church, for its 45th conference, April 26-28. The Rev. C. J. Krueger served as Moderator and the Rev. H. Reifschneider as Vice-moderator.

Sermons

Dr. Timothy Lehmann represented the Synod and lent much inspiration to the conference by means of his sermon based on Romans 12: 2 and by his addresses to the sessions of the conference. The Rev. D. H. Moritz preached the sermon the second evening, and the Rev. E. Pfundt conducted the memorial service.

Resolutions

1. We recommend that the congregations of Herndon and Colby, Kansas, and Tangier and Okeene, Okla., be included in the West Missouri Synod and otherwise approve of the establishment of the West Missouri Synod.
2. Agreeing with the President of the Evangelical Synod, the Kansas District resolves to carry on in a steadfast faith the kingdom work in a godless world and urges its members to be loyal to the Lord.
3. The Kansas District approves the division of the Church into Synods, as proposed by the Committee on Constitution and Charter, and requests the General Synod to establish the Synod in which our District is to be included; provided, however, that the legal existence of this District shall continue until it shall have disposed or divested itself of all property, rights, and powers, belonging to or vested in it. The District assents to any minor changes in boundaries that may seem to the General Synod to be advisable or necessary.
4. The Kansas District regrets sincerely the passing of the Rev. H. L. Streich and extends its heartfelt sympathy to his bereaved family.
5. Resolved, that we express our appreciation to the Board of Christian Education for the exemplary progress that has been made toward completely unifying the educational forces of the merging churches.
6. We are heartily in accord with the proposal to provide field workers, Christian educational, for all areas of the Church; moreover, we

are hopeful that in the very near future at least one such worker may be available to the "middle-western" churches.

7. We regret that under present plans no Leadership Training School will be held on our attractive Elmhurst College Campus; moreover, we strongly urge that, if feasible, a summer school be re-established on the Elmhurst Campus.

8. We appreciate the increasing helpfulness and attractiveness of our periodicals; however, we look forward with anticipation to the time when additional funds will be available for the use of copyrighted materials and better and more illustrative material.

9. Resolved, that more serious thought be given to the whole problem of the Churchmen's Brotherhood as—

- a) regards its relationship to the Church,
- b) its educational objectives,
- c) its social diversions.

10. Appreciating the uniqueness of the challenge of the Bremen Mission in Africa, we still feel constrained to advise caution before adding additional financial burdens.

11. The Kansas District is in general accord with the newly proposed Pension Plan for the united Church.

12. We commend the pioneering effort of the Commission on Church and Social Problems in its attempt to apply our Christian faith to the pressing economic and social problems.

We suggest that this Commission continue to disseminate timely information among our constituency dealing with the social issues of the day.

13. The Kansas District is opposed to the Synod accepting any but debt-free property unless full provision has been made for the payment of such indebtedness.

14. The Kansas District wishes to stress its belief that the respective branches of the united Church shall make adequate provision for the payment of their indebtedness before the merger be completed.

15. The Kansas District requests the Mutual Fire and Storm Association of the Synod to limit its coverage to properties owned or operated by the Church and the personal properties of the ministers.

The ministers Paul Press, Jr., Carl Berges, and Edwin Riske were appointed as a committee in the Kansas District to establish contact with Elmhurst College.

Received into Membership

The brethren Edward Maul and Hans G. Mueller were received into membership of the Synod.

Elections

Delegates to the General Synod:

Ministers—Revs. R. F. Richter, Erich Pfundt.

Laymen—Messrs. John Abele and H. Gerstenberger.

Alternates—Revs. O. J. Krueger, H. Reifschneider, and Messrs. Wm. Eckstein, E. Becker.

A. F. Werner, Secretary.

MINUTES
of the
49th CONFERENCE
of the
NORTH ILLINOIS DISTRICT

Held in
St. Paul Evangelical and Reformed Church, Pekin, Illinois
Rev. A. A. Zimmermann, Pastor

May 17-19, 1938

Services

At 10:30 A. M. in the morning of Tuesday, May 17, 1938, the Conference of the North Illinois District was opened with a worship service, in charge of Rev. J. A. Hoefer. The message was delivered by the Rev. L. W. Goebel, D.D., who used as his text, 1 Kings 19: 9-15. Dr. Goebel gave a challenging address on the theme, "What Doest Thou Here?" A communion service followed, the Revs. A. A. Zimmermann and J. A. Hoefer officiating.

The vote for Moderator and Vice-moderator resulted in the election of Dr. T. Lehmann as Moderator and the Rev. A. B. Gaebe as Vice-moderator.

Devotions

Devotional services were conducted during the conference days by Rev. E. Busekros—"That They May All Be One"; Rev. Paul Reichert—"Christian Unity"; Rev. W. Kleffmann; and Rev. H. Buchmueller.

Sermons and Addresses

Dr. L. W. Goebel spoke on the merger.
Mr. Michael Kross added his opinion from an attorney's point of view.
Dr. J. P. Meyer spoke on "Our Synodical Kingdom Service."
Rev. A. B. Gaebe delivered the memorial sermon.
Rev. A. Dreusicke presented the New Pension Plan.
Prof. A. Wehrli addressed the ministerium and the laymen.

Resolutions

1. Because of the growing need of a City Missionary in Chicago, the North Illinois District instructs its Home Mission Committee to study the field carefully and recommend a definite plan of operation and specific ways of adequate financial support to the District Council which shall have the power to act.

2. In the death of Rev. H. L. Streich the Synod has lost a truly loyal

servant of the Church and our Lord Jesus Christ. We appreciate his contribution to the cause of Christ, and wish for his successor in office, the Rev. J. P. Meyer, as Executive Secretary, God's richest blessings.

3. Since the emphasis on religion is maintained and the Christian influence is active in the life of the school, we recommend Elmhurst to all parents who desire for their sons and daughters a church-related college where such factors are deemed necessary with high scholastic rating.

4. The North Illinois District thanks all its members who have fulfilled their pledge to the Elmhurst-Eden Advance, but feels it necessary to remind all Evangelicals, that unless the unpaid 14,000 subscriptions are paid, an adequate endowment will not be obtained. In view of the approaching merger and its effect upon our colleges financially, it becomes all the more imperative that this endowment be arrived at with all possible speed.

5. The North Illinois District is not unmindful of the wide experience of our esteemed General Treasurer in calling to our attention the matter of the finances of the merged Church, but the District shares the conviction of its President and reaffirms its faith and support for the union of the Reformed Church in United States and the Evangelical Synod of North America, and urges that the new Constitution be declared in effect at the General Synod meeting at Columbus, in June, believing that through wise planning, unbiased legal counsel, and careful leadership the way will be found for the merged Church to function in a way that will reflect credit upon all concerned without sacrificing any of the ideals and purposes of the union in both groups, or jeopardizing any of the tangible assets of the now existing denominations.

6. The North Illinois District approves the division of the Church into Synods, as proposed by the Committee on Constitution and Charter, and requests the General Synod to establish the Synod in which our District is to be included; provided, however, that the legal existence of this District shall continue until it shall have disposed or divested itself, of all property, rights, and powers, belonging to or vested in it. The District assents to any minor changes in boundaries that may seem to the General Synod to be advisable or necessary.

7. In the event that the merger is fully consummated this June, the North Illinois District authorizes its officers to carry on their respective administrative duties until the new North Illinois Synod has been organized and its officers duly elected.

8. Inasmuch as the constituency of the North Illinois Synod will be practically the same as the present North Illinois District, the District authorizes the transfer of its funds to the North Illinois Synod upon the dissolution of the North Illinois District.

9. We are favorably impressed with the New Pension Fund Plan.

10. With reference to Christian Education the North Illinois District

agrees with the unification of the work of the three Boards, which was begun in the fall of 1936, to make possible a single program, a pooled budget, and a completely unified staff.

11. The North Illinois District recommends to the General Synod the immediate creation of a Board of National Missions, involving the union of the "E" Board for Home Missions and the Church Extension Fund Board with the "R" Board for Home Missions, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws; however, the Articles of Incorporation should contain a legal clause to the effect that the debts of the Boards that were incurred before their union shall be met by the respective churches which those Boards then represented.

12. We agree with the report that the "profit motive" should have no place in a Church enterprise; however, we feel that the Church as a whole has been led to believe that our Publishing House is an asset and not a liability.

13. We feel that losses sustained on publications should be charged to bodies sponsoring these publications and not to the Publishing House.

14. The North Illinois District disapproves the plan of budget apportionment suggested by the Committee on Correlation and Promotion and recommends a plan similar to that proposed by the Executive Secretary, Dr. J. P. Meyer, which takes into account the rights of some churches to special consideration and does not favor the churches "who in the past have failed in the discharge of their full responsibility to the denominational household."

15. Grateful that as a denomination we have been able to keep our entire Larger Kingdom Work intact during the difficult years, we resolve that we shall not jeopardize what has been accomplished by any form of expansion at the present time.

16. We oppose any budget apportionment for purposes of emergency relief because the people will spontaneously rise to aid in particular hardships or disasters.

17. Sensing the attitude of defeatism that is engendered by a constant repetition of the injunction to pay the debt, be it resolved that a final and intensive effort be made by every pastor and church to secure every dollar available for this purpose in the remaining days before the General Synod, and that henceforth all our appeals be on the basis of support of Larger Kingdom Service with provisions for debt payment in the Budget.

18. The North Illinois District assures the Boards of Foreign Missions of the Evangelical and Reformed Church of its confidence in the consideration of large unoccupied or inadequately occupied areas in Africa and hopes that proper steps be taken by the General Synod to meet this challenge.

19. We give expression of our confidence in the selection of Mrs. Reichenbach as Executive Secretary of the Women's Union to succeed the Rev. H. L. Streich, whose demise has been a real loss to the cause of the Women's Union, and assure her of our good wishes for much

wisdom and patience resulting in the continued success of the organization.

20. To the family of the late Rev. H. L. Streich the North Illinois District extends its sincerest expression of sympathy, realizing that in his passing the home has lost a most kind and loving father and the Church has lost a most faithful servant.

21. Since we find that our District Treasury has failed to receive from congregations during the year \$858.85 as District dues and \$457.18 as Contingent Fund dues—a total of \$1,316.03, and since our Treasury faces increased expenses because of the General Synod and other appropriations sanctioned by this conference, be it resolved that all congregations be called upon to meet their full apportionment on these items, and give the District Council authority to take such measures as may seem necessary to get results.

Received into Membership

The following were received into the membership of the Evangelical Synod of N. A.:

Rev. H. J. Barth, Rev. Chester Uthlaut, Rev. Walter H. Meyer, and Rev. V. H. Warner.

Elections

The following were elected as delegates to the General Synod:

Ministers—Dr. L. W. Goebel, Revs. F. W. Schroeder, A. A. Zimmermann, Dr. T. Lehmann, Dr. F. Frankenfeld, and Rev. E. H. Plassmann.

Laymen—Messrs. Michael Kross, G. W. Deppert, E. W. Schumacher, A. Krusemark, Peter Gerdes, and A. C. Dittmann.

Alternates—Revs. A. B. Gaebe, H. Lambrecht, Wm. Rest, H. J. Schick, H. P. Bloesch, G. S. Gerhold, and Messrs. A. Schoch, A. W. Meyer, Mrs. R. Mernitz, Messrs. Paul Nehold and R. Brodt.

APPROVED: Timothy Lehmann, Moderator.

F. W. Schroeder, President.

Karl H. Meyer, Secretary.

MINUTES
of the
51st CONFERENCE
of the
MICHIGAN DISTRICT

Held in
Zion Evangelical Church, South Bend, Indiana
Rev. Waldemar Goffeney, Pastor
April 25-28, 1938

Services

The 1938 conference of the Michigan District was held at Zion Evangelical Church, South Bend, Indiana, Rev. W. Goffeney, Pastor, April 25-28. The opening sermon was preached by the Rev. Robert Stanger, Detroit, on "Let the Church Be the Church." His message sounded the keynote for the conference. A Communion Service followed in which the local pastor received the assistance of the Revs. Stanger and M. C. Hoefer.

The business sessions began on the morning of April 26. The President of the District, Rev. Edwin F. Mayer, was elected Moderator, and Rev. R. Stanger Vice-moderator. All essential reports were given by the proper officers and representatives of Boards. Balloting for delegates to the General Synod continued at intervals. A memorial service was conducted by Rev. Louis Kling.

Devotions

Tuesday morning—Rev. H. Konrad.
Wednesday morning—Rev. O. W. Wagner.
Thursday morning—Rev. Karl Rest.

Addresses and Sermons

Tuesday afternoon—Rev. F. H. Rupnow, Ft. Wayne, Ind., "The Building of the Inner Life of the United Church."

Wednesday morning—Mr. P. H. Schulz, "The Church and Its Environment."

Wednesday afternoon—Dr. F. C. Klick, President of the Evangelical Synod, spoke on the work of the Church in the last years and the importance of the denomination.

Wednesday afternoon—Mr. B. G. Cameron of the American Bible Society gave a short interesting account of Bible translation work.

Wednesday afternoon—Dr. L. W. Goebel, Vice-president of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, presented a fine picture of the

Oxford and Edinburgh conferences which he attended. He also spoke on various problems in connection with the contemplated merger.

Thursday morning—Rev. Theo. Schmale, Ann Arbor, spoke about the Honduras mission field.

Resolutions and Items of Importance

1. The Michigan District insists that a consolidation of the editorial offices and business offices of the "Messenger," now separately maintained, the one in Philadelphia and the other in St. Louis, be immediately effected and that said consolidation place the office at St. Louis, the present place of publication, and that financial responsibility for publication be assumed by the General Synod.

2. We, the delegates and pastors of the Michigan District Conference, reaffirm our faith in the merger procedure of our Church and prayerfully look forward to the full consummation of the union and the complete enactment of the Constitution of the Evangelical and Reformed Church at the coming General Synod at Columbus.

3. The Board for Home Missions succeeded in selling the Highland Park property for a cash consideration of \$1,852.00. The Central Board received \$1,000.00, the district treasury \$350.00, and the district Mission Board \$350.00. The balance was used for legal fees, etc.

4. We request the General Synod to provide in the Synodical Budget ample financial support so that Elmhurst and Eden Seminary can continue at all times their high academic standards. We commend Eden Seminary for having attained the status of Graduate School.

5. Resolved that our Kingdom Service Director of the Synod be commended for his untiring zeal in reducing the synodical indebtedness by approximately \$200,000.00 and that the following recommendations be given him:

a) That a minimum of time and money be spent in producing and circulating printed materials,

b) and that a maximum amount of time and effort be spent in personal work to be done among congregations by the Kingdom Service Committee under the direction of the Kingdom Service Director. This implies speaking engagements for members of the Kingdom Service Committee and providing money for expenses.

6. Resolved that the Board of Directors of the Synod be urged to consider the establishment of a fitting memorial for the late Rev. H. L. Streich.

7. Resolved that the District urge the General Synod to withhold action on the adoption of a hymnal until the New Hymnal Committee of the united Church completes its work.

8. In view of the drastic changes in the government, the disintegration of the caste system, and the religious mass movements taking place in India today, the opportunities for preaching the Gospel of Salvation through Christ are greater than ever, and the District hopes the Foreign Mission Board will be able to augment the missionary forces so that the spread of the Gospel be not hindered.

9. The District cautions the Board of Pensions and Relief against the use of capital funds for the purpose of paying current expenses and urges the General Council to give sympathetic help toward avoiding such necessity.

10. The District approves the suggestions to amend By-Law 105 of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

11. Resolved that we express our enthusiastic approval of the new merger Sunday school publications, especially the weekly papers such as "Youth" and the monthly publication "The Builder."

12. Resolved that we approve the plans for the New Church School Hymnal for the merged Church.

13. The District overtures the General Synod, asking that the Commission on Christian Social Action be invested with the responsibility to:

- 1) Find ways and means to rehabilitate Christian refugees from the concentration camps of Europe;
- 2) To present to the Synods a plan of pastoral salary equalization for discussion at the 1940 synodical meetings,
- 3) To present to the clergy in pamphlet form answers to the questions directed to the Commission at the Ft. Wayne General Synod, dealing with pertinent economic questions.

14. The District favors intensive rather than expansive home mission work and urges its mission congregations to sacrificial labor that self-support be an early accomplishment.

15. The District approves the division of the Church into Synods, as proposed by the Committee on Constitution and Charter, and requests the General Synod to establish the Synod in which our District is to be included; provided, however, that the legal existence of this District shall continue until it shall have disposed or divested itself of all property, rights, and powers, belonging to or vested in it. The District assents to any minor changes in boundaries that may seem to the General Synod to be advisable or necessary.

16. As only a few churches have contributed to the support of the Orphans' and Old People's Home during the last year, the District reminds its members of the resolution adopted last year which urges every congregation to take an offering each year for this work.

17. The District, having been informed of the retirement of Rev. Haag as superintendent of the Deaconess Hospital at Detroit, Michigan, rejoices that the hospital has grown to a place of great service. To Rev. Haag we express our sincere thanks. We recognize him as Superintendent Emeritus and invite his presence and counsel to continue with us.

The President of the District reported the sale of the church building at Armada and legal steps for the sale of the property were begun by action of the conference.

Received into Membership

The Ministerium recommended the Rev. Wilbert L. Biasch as a candidate for membership in the Synod. He was later accepted formally before the conference.

Elections

Delegates to the General Synod were chosen as follows:

Ministers—Revs. Edwin F. Mayer, R. Stanger, Theo. Schmale, and J. Wulfmann.

Laymen—Messrs. Paul Schulz, Emil Schwartz, Geo. Bartling, and Chas. Tonn.

Alternates—Revs. J. L. Ernst, F. R. Schreiber, E. Soell, and W. Goffeney; and Messrs. Chas. Gruel, S. Martin, J. Grossman, and E. Grossman.

APPROVED: Edwin F. Mayer, Moderator.

Victor P. Frohne, Secretary.

MINUTES
of the
48th CONFERENCE
of the
MINNESOTA DISTRICT
Held in
Evangelical Church of Peace, Rochester, Minnesota
Rev. W. M. Grabowski, Pastor
May 10-12, 1938

Services

The 48th Conference of the Minnesota District convened at the Evangelical Church of Peace, Rochester, Minnesota, Walter M. Grabowski, Pastor, May 10-12. Synodical representatives and visitors at the conference were Dr. F. C. Klick of St. Louis, President of the Evangelical Synod of North America, Dr. L. W. Goebel of Chicago, First Vice-president of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and Dr. Silas Bittner of Kansas City, Mo., Chairman of the Board of Pensions and Relief.

The conference opened with a Communion Service at 10:30 A. M. on Tuesday. The Rev. Chris. Boland of Cottage Grove, Minn., preached, using as his subject—"The Fellowship of the Faith"; the Rev. Paul Meyer of Prescott, Wis., served as liturgist. In the late afternoon of that day the conference guests were taken on a tour to the world-famous Mayo Clinic in Rochester. On Wednesday evening the worship was in charge of the Rev. A. O. Mann, Henderson, Minn., and Dr. F. C. Klick preached, using as his text—"Nevertheless, when the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith in the earth." (Luke 18: 8.) The two morning devotions were in charge of the Rev. Martin Seybold of Lester Prairie, Minn., and the Rev. Karl Koch of St. Paul, Minn., respectively. The latter was in memory of those who departed this life in the past year.

The conference chose as its Moderator the Rev. Otto A. Muecke, President of the District, and as Vice-moderator the Rev. Wm. J. Riemann, Vice-president of the District.

The business sessions began at 1:30 P. M. on Tuesday. Reports of the Officers, District Boards, Committees and Commissions, gave an account of the work accomplished during the past year.

The Ministerial and the Laymen's sessions were held simultaneously on Wednesday afternoon. Discussions there are reflected in several resolutions of the conference subsequently recorded.

Resolutions

1. The Minnesota District desires that the merger proceedings come to a consummation at the General Synod in June, 1938, and trusts that the matter of financial or other difficulties will find their solution to mutual satisfaction.

2. The Minnesota District is opposed to the adoption of the hymnals of other denominations and recommends that the Committee on New Hymnal continue its work.

3. The Minnesota District asks the Committee on Constitution and Charter to place Elkton and Garretson, S. Dak., in the Northern Synod.

4. The Minnesota District endorses the Ministers' Retirement Fund as proposed, with this change, that the 5% which the congregation pays to the Fund be allocated equally among all the pastors belonging to the Fund; and recommends that the General Synod refer the matter back to the Districts, Classes, or Synods, for final adoption.

5. The Minnesota District requests that the editorial and business offices of the "Messenger" be consolidated and located in St. Louis, Mo., the present place of publication, thus closing the Philadelphia office, with the necessary revision of working personnel wherever duplication is found.

6. The Minnesota District in conference assembled at Rochester, Minn., May 10-12, does hereby earnestly request that the General Synod make provision for the equalization of the traveling expenses of all Synods on a nation-wide basis, including Canada, or to make some other provision so that members who must travel great distances to reach the meetings of Synods can do so on an equitable basis.

7. The District accepts the kind invitation of St. John's Church of Fairmont (Rev. L. Suedmeyer) to conduct the 1939 conference in its midst, when such will be held.

8. The Minnesota District appreciates the presentation of the comprehensive report of the President of our Synod on the state of the Church and commends the true Christian spirit that has pervaded his administration.

9. The District approves the division of the Church into Synods as proposed by the Committee on Constitution and Charter, and requests the General Synod to establish the Synod in which our district is to be included; provided, however, that equalization of all Synod traveling expenses on a nation-wide basis be established, and further that the legal existence of this District shall continue until it shall have disposed or divested itself of all property, rights, and powers, belonging to or vested in it. The District assents to any minor changes in boundaries that may seem to the General Synod to be advisable or necessary.

10. The District feels keenly the loss of the Rev. H. L. Streich who was known and loved in the District, and, mindful of this, wishes to express its sincere sympathy to the family in their bereavement.

11. The District appreciates the willingness of Dr. J. P. Meyer to take over the work of Rev. Streich, in addition to his duties as Kingdom Service Director.

12. We rejoice that the number of churches which make regular monthly remittances of Kingdom funds has increased materially and urge our churches to follow the good example.

13. We are thankful to God and to faithful workers, that money required for the paying basis of our Synodical Budget has been fully raised for the first time in many years and that for once we have finished a year without a deficit.

14. We commend the efficient manner in which the Board of Endowment and Trust Funds has administered the Synodical funds and investments during the past year.

15. The Minnesota District recognizes with gratitude to God the efficient work of the Church Extension Board. It is aware of the fine contributions this work is making in building God's Kingdom among us.

16. The District insists that the funds of the Church Extension Board under the management of the National Mission Board be in no wise used for other purposes than the original ones.

17. The District rejoices in the assurance that Eden Theological Seminary is living up to the Christian charter of a theological seminary, stressing the need of being doers of the truth, to be possessed by the truth, to love truth even unto understanding, and in a wholehearted loyalty strive to bring our lives as individuals and as a Church under the will and guidance of Him who is the Truth.

18. As Elmhurst College provides adequate Christian training for leadership in all walks of life, we would recommend that Evangelical and Reformed people direct their attention to their church-related college, where our young people may be trained for a service of Christ and the Church.

19. We hope that some practical course may be found by which the Elmhurst-Eden Advance may be brought to a successful conclusion and all possible subscriptions gathered in.

20. We call the attention of our congregations to the necessity of supporting the North Star L. T. S. to be held at St. Peter, August 1-12, not only to help train workers for the local church, but also to insure this school in our region for future years. To this end we recommend that each congregation offer to pay at least one-half of the expenses for one or more students from its membership.

21. We urge the Board of Christian Education to print more devotional literature for children of the nature of the Lenten booklet—"Thoughts of God for Boys and Girls."

22. We ask that a larger portion of the denomination's budget be allotted to the work of Christian Education, because this alone can form the basis for the future of our Church.

23. We gratefully acknowledge the work done by the Board of Foreign Missions; we endorse their decisions, and we rejoice in the achievements and progress of the work on both of our mission fields. We encourage the Board to expand the work as the means shall permit and the Lord shall direct.

24. We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Home Mission Board and to every worker in the mission field, and hope that through the efforts of our churches and the Mission Board, the work, under God's guidance, may increase in the coming year.

Received into Membership

The Rev. Reinhard G. Beck, pastor of St. John's Church, St. Paul, Minn., was received into membership of the Synod, subject to the action of the Synodical Board of Directors.

Elections

Delegates to the General Synod at Columbus, Ohio, are:

Ministers—Revs. Otto A. Muecke, Wm. J. Riemann, Erwin R. Koch, Geo. J. Low.

Laymen—Leonard W. Swanson, Phil. C. Justus, Henry S. Striemer, F. P. Warber.

Alternates:—Revs. E. H. Bode, A. O. Mann, J. M. Munz, and O. Rapp; and Messrs. C. Koelle, F. Kroehler, Miss Lila Wolf, and Mr. H. Henschel.

Adjournment

The conference adjourned at 2 P. M. on Thursday.

APPROVED: Otto A. Muecke, Moderator.

Erwin H. Bode, Secretary.

MINUTES

of the

49th CONFERENCE

of the

MISSOURI DISTRICT

Held in

St. John Evangelical Church, St. Charles, Mo.

Rev. C. H. Rohlfing, Pastor

May 3-5, 1938

Services

Conference opened with a Memorial and Communion Service on Tuesday, May 3, at 1:00 P. M., conducted by the Rev. C. H. Rohlfing, pastor loci. Pastor E. H. Bueneman, St. Louis, preached the Memorial Sermon. Pastor A. Habermehl, Moscow Mills, assisted Pastor Rohlfing in the administration of the Holy Communion.

At evening worship, Tuesday, May 3, conference had as preacher, Pastor S. Caldemeyer, Springfield, who spoke on "The Saviour's Estimate of the Church." Pastor T. Marshall, Webster Groves, acted as liturgist. At evening worship, Wednesday, May 4, Dr. F. C. Klick, the Honorable President of the Evangelical Synod, preached on the theme, "Shall They Have Faith?" Pastor H. Renken, Bland, served as liturgist.

Devotions and Meditations

Wednesday morning: The Rev. K. Baur, Billings.

Wednesday morning meditation, "How Christ Shares with Us His Life, His Kingdom, and His Work," by the Rev. Prof. H. J. Christman, D.D.

Thursday morning: The Rev. E. C. Brink, Augusta.

Closing devotions were conducted by Pastor G. Orlowsky, St. Charles.

Addresses and Papers

Tuesday afternoon: "The City Church," Pastor A. F. Alberswerth, Mehlville.

Tuesday afternoon: "Our Evangelical Synod," Dr. Paul Press, representative of Synod.

Wednesday morning: "Present Day Theology and the Christian Witness," Dr. S. D. Press.

Wednesday afternoon: "Our Larger Kingdom Service," Dr. J. P. Meyer.

Wednesday afternoon: "Pastoral Psychology and Psychiatry: Answering the Cry of Breaking Hearts," Pastor A. B. Meyer, Norwood, Ohio.

Thursday morning: "Pastoral Psychology and Psychiatry: Answering the Cry of Hungering Hearts," Pastor A. B. Meyer, Norwood, Ohio.

Sectional Conferences were held on Thursday morning for ministers under the direction of Dr. A. C. Rasche, St. Louis, and for laymen under the direction of Mr. Walter H. Witthaus, St. Louis.

Synodical and District Christian Education and Young People's work was presented on Thursday by Prof. H. A. Pflug, Miss Marie Rose Remmel, and Pastor S. J. Schmiechen; Synodical and District Home Missions were discussed by Pastors J. J. Braun and O. A. Egger; the Churchmen's Brotherhood work was presented by Messrs. Walter H. Witthaus and Carl Bender; the Women's Union by Mrs. G. Hicks.

Resolutions

1. We, the Missouri District, in session at St. Charles, Missouri, May 3-5, 1938, reconsider our approval of the Constitution and By-Laws of the united Church, given by us at the Missouri District Conference, held in 1937, at Hermann, Missouri.

Whereas, neither the Evangelical Synod of North America, nor the (former) Reformed Church in the United States, have found it possible to liquidate their indebtedness; and

Whereas, the actual merging of the work of a number of the Boards is obviously not possible at this time; and,

Whereas, there exists at the present time uncertainty about the exact status of the contracting parties, as to financial conditions and other matters;

Be it therefore resolved, that the Missouri District go on record as favoring the postponement of putting into effect the new Constitution and By-Laws, for at least two years, and, for this reason defers further action in regard thereunto, until the regular meeting of the Missouri District two years hence.

Be it further resolved, that Missouri District petition General Synod to immediately set in motion the necessary machinery for the gathering of all pertinent information with regard to the actual financial standing of the two contracting parties, and, to put forth every effort to liquidate the indebtedness of the various bodies; and, to submit such information to the Districts and Classes, at the time of their 1939 Conferences.

And, be it resolved, that Missouri District reaffirm its full confidence and faith in the (former) Reformed Church in the United States; its earnest desire to have the merger completely effected as quickly as possible; and its sincere belief that all obstacles thereto can and will be overcome, so that we may work harmoniously and effectively, as a truly united Church, in the very near future.

2. The Missouri District instructs its delegates to the General Synod to be governed by the resolutions adopted by District with reference to the Constitution and By-Laws of the united Church.

3. Missouri District approves the division of the Church into "Synods", as proposed by the Committee on Constitution and Charter,

and requests General Synod to establish the Synod in which this District is to be included; provided, however, that the legal existence of this District shall continue, until it shall have disposed or divested itself of all property, rights, and powers, belonging to or vested in it. District assents to any minor changes in boundaries that may seem to General Synod to be advisable or necessary.

4. The question of more exactly defining the status of "Commissioned Workers" is referred to General Synod's Committee on Constitution and Charter for further clarification.

5. The information presented on pp. 132-133 of the Synodical Reports is to be submitted to the individual congregations of the District for further study before District is prepared to make any decision concerning the new Pension Fund Plan.

6. Whereas, the Missouri District deplores the present "armament race" among the nations as a policy which foment war; and

Whereas the proposed "naval expansion program," now before the Congress of the United States, is of such great size, if carried through, it is likely to increase the fear and apprehension on the part of other nations, and therefore aggravate the existing state of tension;

Be it therefore resolved, that Missouri District express its disapproval of the large contemplated increase in expenditures for the navy, as being dangerous to World Peace, and,

Be it further resolved, that our attitude be stated in appropriate letters to the Missouri Senators, Clark and Truman.

7. The District rejoices in the fact that Grace Church, St. Louis, and Samuel Church, Clayton, have declared themselves self-sustaining, and commends the Revs. E. H. Bueneman and John Flucke, pastors of the respective congregations, for their fine and successful leadership.

8. We, the lay delegates of the Missouri District Conference, earnestly request Conference to urge upon our pastors and churches within the District to foster and encourage more religious training and Christian discipline in our Evangelical and Reformed homes, to the end that our American Christian homes might truly become and remain the bulwark of our American civilization.

9. Missouri District looks with favor on the teaching of Psychology and Psychiatry and urges the fostering of this training for Church school teachers, through the pastors as leaders in the local congregations, recommending further, that our Leadership Training Schools include these subjects in their curriculum.

10. Missouri District petitions the Board and Faculty of Eden Theological Seminary to stress the teaching of Psychology and Psychiatry, so that our future ministers may be fully qualified to minister to their people with these sciences.

11. Be it resolved, that in all future elections of delegates to General Synods at least *one* pastor and *one* layman each may be elected from the Hermann Region, and from the St. Charles Region.

Received into Membership

District voted favorably on the applications of Pastors Harry Ring, W. O. Bessmer, and Herbert Stahlhut, for membership in the Evangelical Synod, and these pastors were publicly received into the membership of the Synod by Dr. F. C. Klick.

Elections

Pastors J. H. Overbeck, St. Louis, and F. E. J. Schenk, Union, President and Vice-president of District, were elected as Moderator and Vice-moderator, respectively, of the Conference.

District elected the following ministers and laymen to be its representatives at the forthcoming General Synod:

Ministers: Revs. J. H. Overbeck, F. C. Klick, D.D., Paul Press, D.D., F. A. Goetsch, D.D., H. J. Damm, O. A. Kienker.

Laymen: Messrs. O. C. Grueninger, John F. Peters, John W. Mueller, F. A. Keck, W. H. Witthaus, A. H. Steinbeck.

Alternates: Revs. A. C. Rasche, D.D., A. F. Alberswerth, F. E. J. Schenk, J. N. Schuch, E. E. Leibner, Alvin Blome; Messrs. F. W. Klein, E. H. Schultz, Jr., H. Blumer, O. A. Mehler, J. H. Oetting, Wm. Samel.

APPROVED: J. H. Overbeck, Moderator.

E. H. Bueneman, Secretary.

MINUTES
of the
46th CONFERENCE
of the
NEBRASKA DISTRICT

Held in
St. Paul Evangelical Church, Cook, Nebraska
Rev. Theo. Pfundt, Pastor

April 27-29, 1938

Services

The 46th conference of the Nebraska District convened in St. Paul's Church, Cook, Nebraska, (Theo. Pfundt, pastor), April 27-29. The conference was opened Wednesday at 2 P. M. with devotions conducted by the Rev. Geo. Duensing. The opening service, which was also a communion service, was held Wednesday evening. The Rev. J. P. Meyer, Director of Our Larger Kingdom Service, delivered a challenging sermon on Rom. 12: 2: "The Will of God in Home and Community." The local pastor, the Rev. Theo. Pfundt, extended to pastors and delegates a cordial welcome in the name of his congregation which was now entertaining the conference for the fifth time since the district was organized. At the concluding service on Thursday evening the Rev. E. Stelzig preached in German on 1 Sam. 20: 17: "The Bond of Love," and the Rev. G. Bode on John 21: 1-8: "Dealings of the Resurrected Lord."

Devotions

Wednesday afternoon: "Achieving the Will of God through Self-Surrender," by the Rev. Geo. Duensing.

Thursday morning: "Achieving the Will of God through Service," by the Rev. Geo. Fuchs.

Thursday afternoon: "Achieving the Will of God through Fellowship with Christ," by the Rev. Wm. Ruhl.

Friday morning: Memorial Devotion in the German language by the Rev. J. H. Steger.

Addresses

"Our Larger Kingdom Service," by Rev. J. P. Meyer, D.D.

"The New Pension Fund Plan," by Rev. E. F. Abele.

"The Evangelical Synod and Church Unity," by Rev. J. H. Steger.

"The American Bible Society," by Dr. A. F. Ragatz.

Resolutions

Whereas the Evangelical Synod of North America succeeded in liquidating its current debts only a little more than fifty percent, and

whereas the Reformed Church in the United States was even less fortunate in the same attempt, and whereas the functioning of the merged churches undoubtedly would be seriously complicated and impeded by reason of debt conditions not previously met by the respective churches:

Therefore, be it resolved by the Nebraska District of the Evangelical Synod of North America, in conference assembled, that it reconsider the resolution heretofore adopted, approving the Constitution and By-Laws of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

After reconsidering the resolution heretofore adopted, the Nebraska District unanimously "resolved to lay over the resolution of last year, approving the Constitution, until the next district conference.

2. Whereas, under the Plan of Union, the General Synod is without power to unite Districts and Classes, except at their request, and whereas, the Nebraska District of the Evangelical Synod of North America is not in accord with the proposed Missouri Valley Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church,

Therefore, be it resolved by the Nebraska District of the Evangelical Synod of North America, in conference assembled, that it neither requests nor does it consent to the reorganization of the Nebraska District or becoming a part of said Missouri Valley Synod; but rejects the same, and it hereby declares and determines that it will remain as it now is, a separate and distinct body of conference.

3. Be it resolved by the Nebraska District of the Evangelical Synod of North America, in conference assembled, that the General Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, at its Conference to be held in Columbus, Ohio, on and during June 22-29, 1938, enact and adopt appropriate legislation which will reserve and guarantee to each congregation the right and privilege to retain the creed, form of worship, freedom of worship, form of government, name, constitution and by-laws, that such congregation had prior to the union, and further reserving and guaranteeing to each congregation the title, control and use of its property, both real and personal.

4. The Nebraska District suggests to the District Council that the churches of eastern Nebraska and western Iowa comprise the proposed Missouri Valley Synod.

5. Since the debt will very probably not be paid by June, 1938, we recommend that Rev. J. P. Meyer, Director of our Kingdom Service Program, continue his efforts to enlist the full cooperation of all congregations. We feel that our Director, J. P. Meyer, has faced the problem of our debt with courage and hope, we commend him for his earnest endeavor, and bespeak for him the whole-hearted support of our congregations in helping him complete the task.

6. The Nebraska District endorses Dr. F. C. Klick's recommendation that the General Synod appoint a committee to study the ministers' salary situation and to find ways and means for a juster equalization.

7. The Nebraska District calls upon its members to consider the

advantages offered at Elmhurst College as a liberal arts school, and emphasizes that Christian principles alone can give proper value and direction to education. To reduce further expense in the collection of Elmhurst-Eden Advance pledges, the Nebraska District approves of the suggestion that our pastors be approached to suggest some one in their congregations who might be willing to assist in collecting these outstanding pledges, and asks their whole-hearted cooperation.

8. The Nebraska District commends the faculty of Eden Seminary for its efforts to be of service to the entire ministry of our Church through the seminary bulletin and the Annual Convocation; and is pleased to note that the students of the Seminary have such a wide range of opportunity for practical experience.

9. The Nebraska District rejoices that the new group magazines are proving successful media in assisting the Sunday school and their leaders and in furthering spiritual life.

The Nebraska District stands opposed to the modernism and liberalism as revealed in the new uniform lesson guides, and hopes that the writers of these lessons abide with the teachings and doctrines of the Bible which is the foundation of our faith.

10. As the "Messenger" in its present form is not acceptable to a majority of the Evangelical people, it is proposed that this magazine be conducted along the lines of the "Friedensbote." In order to reduce the mounting deficit it is suggested that its place of publication be only at St. Louis, Mo., which publishing house pays the entire expense of its publication.

11. We regret the fact that the total contribution toward the liquidation of Synodical debts amounted to but \$56,000.00 for the past year, and urge our congregations to do their duty in the future, so as to wipe out in the nearest time the remaining balance of \$200,000.00.

12. Learning from the reports that a great number of pledges toward the Elmhurst-Eden Advance campaign have not been paid, we admonish our congregations to pay the promised pledges, so that the bonded indebtedness of \$470,000.00 can be paid.

Elections

Member of the General Council: Rev. F. L. Rodenbeck.

Delegates to the General Synod at Columbus, Ohio:

Ministers: Revs. W. Bechtold and Theo. Pfundt.

Laymen: Mr. Chas. R. Wilke and Mr. Henry Wellensiek.

Alternates: Revs. M. Strasburg and F. L. Rodenbeck and Messrs. Fred Ress and E. H. Birkmann.

Adjournment

At the conclusion of the noon meal Friday, April 29, the conference minutes were read in an abbreviated form and adopted by the conference. All business having been transacted, the conference adjourned at 1 P. M. with prayer and benediction pronounced by the Rev. Theo. Pfundt.

APPROVED: W. Bechtold, Moderator.

O. E. Pinckert, Secretary.

MINUTES
of the
49th CONFERENCE
of the
NEW YORK DISTRICT

Held in
St. Matthew Evangelical Church, Buffalo, New York
Rev. H. A. Fenske, Pastor
May 11-13, 1938

Services

The Conference of the New York District of the Evangelical Synod of N. A., held in St. Matthew's Evangelical Church, Buffalo, Rev. H. A. Fenske, pastor, May 11-13, 1938, opened with a Communion Service beginning at 2:15 o'clock on May 11, with the Rev. H. Fenske, local pastor, officiating, assisted by Rev. Paul Frohne. A cordial word of welcome was given by the local pastor, to which the District President, the Rev. C. G. Haass, responded.

The Rev. C. G. Haass was elected Moderator, and the Rev. Theo. Mayer, Vice-Moderator.

Devotions

Thursday morning—Rev. Abele—"Achieving the Will of God through Self-surrender."

Friday morning—Rev. L. Moessner—"Achieving the Will of God through Service."

Sermons and Addresses

Wednesday evening—Rev. R. Philbrook—"The Will of God in an Age of Conflict."

Thursday evening—Rev. M. W. Jeschke—"The Will of God in Home and Community."

Resolutions

1. Whereas the question of liquidation of the debts of the former Evangelical Synod of N. A. and the Reformed Church in the U. S., has caused an effort to be made to postpone the merger,

Be it resolved that the New York District approves the effective adoption of the Constitution and By-Laws by the General Synod in sessions at Columbus, Ohio, for the following reasons:

a) Because the postponement of the adoption of the Constitution for a period of two years would appear to jeopardize the success of the merger, since on the basis of past experience neither group could liquidate its entire indebtedness, within that time.

b) Because an indefinite postponement "until all debts have been paid," would foredoom the merger immediately since none can envisage the time when either or both groups will be out of debt.

c) Because the proposal to postpone the adoption of the Constitution is not in harmony with the spirit of mutual faith and trust in one another, in which the merger was inaugurated and carried forward.

Be it further resolved, that the New York District affirms its complete confidence in the ability of the leadership of our united Church to find a way in which both the "E" group and the "R" group will be able to liquidate the financial obligations of their respective constituencies without injustice or injury to each other.

Be it further resolved, that the New York District expresses its wholehearted faith in the merger and urges the General Synod to lead the way to an abiding and indivisible union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church in the fellowship and love of Jesus Christ, the only head of the Church.

2. That in view of the increasing paganism and display at funeral services, be it resolved, that in future the usual five dollars expended for a floral piece from the District, in the event of the death of a pastor or pastor's widow, in our District, this sum of money instead be sent to the Blue Springs Pastors' Home, and a letter sent to the bereaved family indicating that this memorial has been given.

3. With sincere regret we note that under the new boundaries, embracing our District in the West New York Synod, our sister church in Meadville will be separated from us. Zion Church and her ministers have always played an important part in the affairs of the District. Though we are sorry to lose this congregation, our loss will be the gain of the new division to which the Meadville Church will be assigned.

4. We commend St. Luke's Church, Erie, for having paid the full amount pledged for the Elmhurst-Eden Advance. Inasmuch as each pastor has a list of contributors from his church, some check-up should be made, backed up by the church councils.

5. We rejoice with the synodical treasurer over the upturn in benevolent giving, and are happy to note that our Synod compares favorably with some other denominations; however, in regard to the synodical debt liquidation, we are sorry to find that the New York District does not compare favorably with the other districts.

6. Be it resolved that immediate steps be taken to clear up the present controversy over the finances of the merged Church.

7. We are convinced that the entire Church, i. e., the united Church, foster the financial support of Elmhurst and we urge the realization of an adequate endowment to help meet its needs. To this end we request the churches of the New York District to follow up the pledges made in the Elmhurst-Eden Advance.

8. In order to stimulate interest in Elmhurst College as a school for prospective students, we urge the pastors of the District to set aside one Sunday during each year as "Education Sunday" in which the

denominational schools, particularly Elmhurst and Eden, shall be brought to the attention of our respective congregations.

9. We urge Eden's continued support of the Council for Clinical Training of Theological Students.

10. We heartily approve the discontinuance of the designation "Special Students" and that henceforth Eden will function as a graduate school.

11. Since war is the antithesis of the Christian ethic, we protest against the recent armament program of the national government and call upon the President to use every means at his disposal to keep the United States out of armed conflict.

To forestall the appeal of war as a solution for the bankrupt farmer, the unemployed workers, and hard-pressed groups, we favor peaceful creative projects such as housing, reclamation, conservation, and education.

12. The New York District recognizes in the prevailing profit economy the cause of war and the source of poverty in the midst of potential plenty and therefore stands committed to the Christian program of establishing an economy planned primarily to feed the hungry, house the homeless, and to generally satisfy human needs.

13. We overture the General Synod to set up a special committee with responsibility and power to act, to aid such ministers, who under present conditions are denied the opportunity to preach the Gospel in Germany.

14. We overture the General Synod to set up a committee with a modest financial appropriation at its disposal for study of the situation and power to encourage and guide the formation of a voluntary ministerial group looking towards the equalization of salaries.

15. The New York District appreciates the fine spirit in which the President of our Synod endeavored to meet the responsibilities of leadership in a time of universal uncertainty and confusion.

16. Agreeable to the suggestion of the President, the New York District "approves the division of the Church into Synods, as proposed by the Committee on Constitution and Charter, and requests the General Synod to establish the Synod in which our District is to be included; provided, however, that the legal existence of this District shall continue until it shall have disposed or divested itself, of all property, rights, and powers, belonging to or vested in it. The District assents to any minor changes in boundaries that may seem to the General Synod to be advisable or necessary.

17. The New York District is deeply conscious of the great loss sustained by our denomination in the passing of Rev. H. L. Streich. We authorize our president to express to the family of Rev. H. L. Streich the heartfelt sympathy of the District.

18. The New York District approves the appointment of the Rev. J. P. Meyer as Executive Secretary of the General Council.

19. The New York District approves the plan for computing the

apportionments of the congregations for the new budget of the united Church, as given by the Kingdom Service Director, Dr. J. P. Meyer.

20. We believe that the work of the New Hymnal Committee should be continued, looking forward to the eventual publication of our own official hymnal.

21. The New York District favors the substitution of the term "Regional Conferences" for the term "Workers' Conferences" provided for in the new Constitution of the united Church.

22. The New York District believes that the time is opportune to persuade the unaffiliated churches in our Evangelical group to apply for denominational membership and requests its District Council to give this important matter its earnest attention.

23. The New York District suggests to the Debt Liquidation Campaign Director that a determined effort be made to solicit the congregations which have done little or nothing, to contribute on the basis of \$1.00 per member for this fund.

24. We greet with approval every step of cooperation with other denominations toward more effective churching of communities.

25. In view of the fact that rural churches are a feeder for city churches and that rural communities furnish a large portion of the nation's leadership, it is not only a matter of fairness, but also of sound policy that adequate attention be given to the problems of the rural church.

26. The New York District approves of the vote of the Foreign Mission Board "that the Board of International Missions overture the General Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church at its meeting next June, in Columbus, Ohio, to authorize the Board to accept this challenge of the Bremen Mission and of Christ's cause among the Ewe people of British West Africa, to take over the work of Akpafu, formerly supported by the Bremen Mission, and to undertake the support of Dr. Erich Voehringer as our missionary, with the possibility of extending northward or southward from Akpafu as our base, as future developments may justify."

27. The New York District welcomes the appearance of the new publications for church school leaders and pupils and recommends their introduction into all of our Sunday schools.

28. The New York District recommends that the use of the Heidelberg and Westminster graded materials be continued and further encouraged throughout the united Church. It is felt that these materials are exceptionally well written and planned and it is doubtful that any great improvement could be made by publishing new series of lessons except through the expenditure of a large sum of money which would be quite unnecessary and inadvisable especially at this time.

29. Recognizing the constructive work that could be done through the addition of a Children's Division Worker and Area Field Workers to the Board of Christian Education Staff, it is nevertheless felt that their addition to the staff be delayed until the budget condition of the denomination so warrants.

30. It is recommended that in the interests of efficiency and economy the New York District overtures the General Synod that the Board of Directors of the Dunkirk Conference Grounds shall consist of 12 members. The General Synod shall elect eight and these shall elect the other four, subject to the approval of the General Council. In the election of these members the section of the Church, in which the Dunkirk Conference Grounds are located, shall be taken into account, as also the four activities groups of Sunday Schools, Women's Organizations, Young People, and Brotherhood, which have been and especially are interested in this project.

31. The editors of the "Messenger" are petitioned to refrain from advertising money-making schemes in the columns of the "Messenger".

32. That continued effort be made to eradicate gambling from our churches, societies, and communities.

33. The New York District is convinced not only that "a church publishing house is a perfectly legitimate business undertaking and entitled to make fair and reasonable profits," but that our Eden Publishing House is an institution which occupies and fills an important place in our church activities by making available the best that is in Christian literature, periodicals, and helps in all departments of our work. "The sons of the world are for their own generation wiser than the children of light." Luke 16: 8.

34. Since the "Messenger" is the "national weekly organ of the Evangelical and Reformed Church," the New York District supports most emphatically the resolution adopted by the Board of Publications "that the financial responsibility for the publishing of the 'Messenger' be assumed by the General Synod."

35. For simple reasons of economy the New York District likewise insists on the consolidation of the editorial and business offices of the "Messenger" to be located in St. Louis, Mo., with the necessary revision of the working personnel wherever duplication is found.

36. The New York District approves in principle the proposed plan for a new pension fund, as shown on pages 132 and 133 of the official Synodical Reports.

37. The New York District is in full accord with the recommendation of the Pension and Relief Fund to amend By-Law 105 of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, page 134.

Elections

Election of Delegates to the General Synod:

Ministers—Revs. C. G. Haas, H. H. Lohans, Paul Schroeder.

Laymen—Messrs. E. J. H. Werle, Wm. Brown, Wm. Bender.

Alternates—Revs. Theo. Mayer, Paul P. Frohne, Elmer Hoefer, and Messrs. H. Naumann, Louis Trost, Wm. Grotzka.

Paul R. Frohne, Secretary.

MINUTES
of the
49th CONFERENCE
of the
OHIO DISTRICT

Held in
St. John Evangelical Church, Oxford Township, Ohio
Rev. H. E. Pfeiffer, Pastor
May 18-20, 1938

Services

The 49th Conference of the Ohio District of the Evangelical Synod of North America, held in St. John's Church, Oxford Township, Ohio, Rev. H. E. Pfeiffer, pastor, May 18-20, 1938, was opened with devotions led by the District President, Rev. L. H. Lammers.

The evening service was a Communion Service with Rev. H. E. Pfeiffer leading the worship and Rev. Theo. R. Schmale of Ann Arbor, Mich., bringing the message, "The Proof of Christian Discipleship Is Love," John 13: 35.

Devotions

Rev. Wm. von Brauchitsch—Thursday morning.
Rev. R. J. Baldauf—Friday morning.

Sermons and Addresses

Rev. Theo. R. Schmale—"The Proof of Christian Discipleship Is Love."

Dr. J. P. Meyer—"Education."

Dr. J. P. Meyer—"The Christian Home"—Romans 12: 2.

Dr. B. F. Lamb—Executive Secretary of the Ohio Council of Churches.

Rev. J. J. Braun—Executive Secretary Home Mission Board—presented the tasks and work of that Board to the conference.

Resolutions

1. The Ohio District approves the division of the Church into Synods, as proposed by the Committee on Constitution and Charter, and requests the General Synod to establish the Synod in which our District is to be included; provided, however, that the legal existence of this District shall continue until it shall have disposed or divested itself of all property, rights, and powers, belonging to or vested in it. The District assents to any minor changes in boundaries that may seem to the General Synod to be advisable or necessary.

2. We applaud the fact that for the first time in many years enough has been raised to meet the paying basis to the Boards, and recognize therein the fruits of widespread and sincere effort on the part of direc-

tors, pastors, and people. We are hopeful that this attainment may be equalled—even bettered—in 1938, and recommend continued concerted attack upon problems related to Kingdom Service.

3. The District voices its appreciation of the services of President Klick who contemplates returning once more to the ranks.

4. The District takes cognizance of the effort of Treasurer F. A. Keck in seeking to have called into active existence the Finance Committee elected at the General Synod of 1934 (Cleveland, Ohio), see page 12 of Reports to the Districts, 1938, and minutes of the General Synod, 1934, page 178.

5. The District approves the publication of duplex envelopes bearing Evangelical and Reformed “messages,” and considers the combination of devotional values with factual information as definitely desirable.

6. The District approves the action of the Executive Committee and the Committee on Correlation and Promotion of the General Council in seeking some new basis for budget apportionment and expresses confidence in the ability of these committees to establish it.

7. The Ohio District requests the General Synod that, when the merger is consummated, provisions be made to include in the regular appeal for denominational support an item for “Educational Institutions.” This would make it possible to have Elmhurst College and such institutions of the “R” group who have no adequate endowment to continue to function with the support of the whole denomination.

8. The Ohio District lays upon the hearts of its constituency the meaningful statement of Dr. Tim. Lehmann that “not only do we need more Christian leaders in all walks of life, but we need more consecrated fathers and mothers in all parts of the country, who will not fail prayerfully and consistently to direct their children toward that school, where a liberal training with all the emphasis upon Christian conviction and commitment is available.”

9. The Ohio District believes that the continued use of field men is necessary in order to collect the outstanding pledges for the Elmhurst-Eden Advance and that the cost involved is money well spent. However, we urge that the pastor or someone appointed by him co-operate with the field man in collecting these pledges, by a systematic follow-up within the congregation.

10. We recommend closer cooperation with the Committee on Town and Country of the Home Mission Council and Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America as peculiarly adaptable to our denomination.

11. The District believes that a much larger and more unselfish home missionary program is needed to counteract the very grave condition of the moral and spiritual life in city and country as described by our Board for Home Missions: a) crime has increased to such an extent that the nation must spend the staggering sum of 15 billion dollars a year in dealing with it; b) the prison population is growing at the rate of 25,000 a year, necessitating a new prison each week; c) the youth of our country is involved in crime to such an extent that the

average age of the criminal is only 19 years, while the Religious Education Association reports that 27,000,000 nominally Protestant young people and children are outside of the organized ministries of the Church.

12. The Ohio District supports the Central Board for Home Missions in its strong emphasis on the need for effective city missions: a) acknowledging with grateful pride the part of St. John's Church, Columbus, in the establishment of Central Settlement House; b) welcoming the guidance of the Cooperative Council of Missions under the direction of Rev. D. D. Baker in the year's study of the subject, "The Church and the City"; c) taking cognizance of the creative work in city missions done by the St. Louis Federation of Evangelical Churches under the leadership of Rev. H. J. Damm, Rev. H. P. Schulz, and Rev. Raymond Frankenfeld. We recognize the loss to the St. Louis Mission work of the Rev. J. W. Varwig as a loss to the whole denomination.

13. We appreciate the generous contribution to Home Missions on the part of the Women's Union through its Thank-offering and its Ascension Day offering.

14. The Ohio District endorses the resolution of our Board of International Missions regarding the adoption of Rev. Erich Voehringer as our missionary at Akpafu, formerly supported by the Bremen Mission.

15. Resolved that the General Synod authorize the Boards of Christian Education and the Evangelical League to sponsor a second National Conference on Christian Education.

16. Resolved that the Ohio District indorse the publication of a new church-school hymnal and the issue of a single and complete series of departmental graded lessons.

17. In view of the fact that the Synodical Debt has not been liquidated, we recommend that the following action be taken:

- a) That the debt be absorbed by the regular Synodical budget.
- b) That an untiring and centrally directed effort be made to raise the Budget in all churches in full.
- c) That a minimum requirement paying basis be continued until the debt is retired out of budget receipts.

18. We are as heartily opposed to war as ever, but we urge our people to seek to understand and identify the subtle forces within our civilization that lead to war, viz., nationalism, militarism, fascism, communism, and the naive faith of the average American in the democratic process.

19. Since unemployment is at once the fruit of yesterday's over-optimistic materialism and the seed of tomorrow's chaos, we urge our ministers and laymen to rise above partisan prejudice, to distinguish between individual privilege and social justice, and to strive to become once more a leaven of compassion in a world of confusion and fear.

20. The Ohio District commits itself wholeheartedly to the Evangelical and Reformed Church. We request that the General Synod of 1938 declare the Constitution of the Evangelical and Reformed Church

as being in effect, provided that the General Synod comes to the conclusion that the financial problems are not a hindrance.

21. The Ohio District commends the national Women's Union for having apportioned one-third of its Thank-offering receipts to the Ministers' Pension and Relief Fund during the past year and also for inviting the Fund to share in the thank-offering of the coming year. The District rejoices with the Board of Pension and Relief that the Women's Union of the North Illinois District has pledged itself to raise \$2,000.00 for the cause of pensions and relief in our Synod.

22. Inasmuch as the proposed new Pension Plan seems to be founded upon a sound business basis and to follow the successful systems of certain denominations, and since it would provide much more adequate pension than our present Fund, the Ohio District voices its approval.

23. The Ohio District is in hearty agreement with the constitutional amendment advanced by the Board of Pension and Relief respecting the formation and manner of election of the Board.

24. The Ohio District endorses the overture of the Board of Publications to the Executive Committee of the General Synod that the financial responsibility for the publishing of "The Messenger" be assumed by the General Synod.

25. The Ohio District approves the following resolution offered by the Board of Publications: "That the editorial and business offices of "The Messenger" be consolidated and located in St. Louis, Mo., the present place of publication, closing the Philadelphia office, with the necessary revision of working personnel wherever duplication is found."

Elections

The following, in the order named, were elected as delegates to the General Synod:

Ministers—Revs. L. H. Lammers, A. E. Klick, Theo. Merten, Theo. Schlundt.

Laymen—Messrs. Jacob Haller, Carl D. Fischer, Jr., Wm. Hazelbeck, Mrs. Mae Friday Ashbrook.

Alternates—Revs. H. E. Pfeiffer, F. H. Klemme, Paul Kaefer, E. N. Krafft, and Messrs. Julius Linder, Frank Zinsmaster, John C. Brown, Wm. Groezinger.

Adjournment

The Conference adjourned at noon after the closing prayer led by Rev. Paul Pfeiffer.

C. C. Huprich, Secretary.

MINUTES
of the
25th CONFERENCE
of the
PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT
Held in
Friedens Evangelical Church, Walla Walla, Washington
Rev. Julius Berkenkamp, Pastor
May 12-15, 1938

Services

The Conference of the Pacific Northwest District convened in Friedens Evangelical Church at Walla Walla, Washington, May 12-15, Rev. J. Berkenkamp, pastor.

The opening service was in charge of the local pastor. Rev. Chas. Warber preached the English sermon on the topic, "The Will of God in the Home," and Rev. A. Beutenmueller preached the German sermon on "The Will of God in the Congregation and Community."

Rev. W. A. Werth was elected as Moderator and Rev. A. Beutenmueller as Vice-Moderator.

Sermons and Addresses

Friday evening—Rev. C. F. Howe—Memorial sermon.

Sunday morning—Rev. P. Jueling—"Thy Will Be Done" (German).

Sunday morning—Rev. A. E. Binder—"The Will of God in Life" (English).

Sunday afternoon—Rev. E. Hergert—"A Congregation Doing the Will of God" (German).

Sunday evening—Rev. Chas. Hoffman—Address for Young People (English).

Sunday evening—Rev. Chas. Warber—Closing address (German).

Prof. Santler of Whitman College, a graduate of the University of Vienna, gave a very splendid and interesting address on the timely topic, "The Religious Struggle in Germany."

Resolutions

1. The Pacific Northwest District adopts the suggestion of the Portland-Oregon Classis to meet at the time when the Classis must legally meet, with a view of perfecting the new organization in a final joint session.

2. The Pacific Northwest District approves the division of the Church into Synods, as proposed by the Committee on Constitution

and Charter, and requests the General Synod to establish the Synod in which our District is to be included; provided that the legal existence of this District continue until it shall have disposed or divested itself of all property, rights, and powers, belonging to or vested in it. The District assents to any minor changes in boundaries that may seem to the General Synod to be advisable or necessary.

3. The Pacific Northwest District endorses the overture of the Board of Foreign Missions to the General Synod that it be authorized to accept the challenge of the "Bremen Mission" for work in Africa.

4. The Pacific Northwest District would urge all the beneficiaries of the Extension Fund to "take every effort to meet their obligations to the fund when due, in order that the Board may be enabled to render service to other applicants.

5. The Pacific Northwest District commends the Commission for Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church for its searching presentation of the social issues of our day in the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and herewith petitions the General Synod to give authorization and make means available to the Commission to follow out the projected course of action outlined in the Reports of Synodical Officers and Boards, page 175; this resolution to be included in all printed reports of the District Conference.

6. Previous to the final merger of the Pacific Northwest District and the Portland-Oregon Classis, the remaining funds in the Regional Conference treasury shall automatically go to the Pacific Northwest District Revolving Fund.

7. The Pacific Northwest District endorses the recommendation of the Board of Publication and the Eden Publishing House that the editorial and business offices for the Evangelical and Reformed "Messenger" be consolidated, with headquarters in St. Louis.

8. The Pacific Northwest District holds that the merger should be completed at as early a date as possible in accordance with the prevailing plans, and that wherever details have not been fulfilled as previously agreed upon, that new agreements be entered into that will fully protect the interest of both churches.

Elections

The following were elected to represent the District at the General Synod:

Minister—Rev. Chas. Warber.

Layman—Mr. J. D. Frank.

Alternates—Rev. C. Hoffman and Mr. Theo. Brugger.

APPROVED: Rev. Chas. Warber, President.

C. F. Howe, Secretary.

MINUTES
of the
40th CONFERENCE
of the
PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT
Held in
St. John Evangelical Church, Wheeling, West Virginia
Rev. W. J. Hausmann, Pastor
May 17-19, 1938

Services

The Conference of the Pennsylvania District convened at St. John's Evangelical Church, Wheeling, West Virginia, Rev. W. J. Hausmann, pastor, on May 17-19, 1938. The Conference began with a service of Holy Communion, Rev. W. J. Hausmann officiating, assisted by Rev. J. R. C. Haas.

Devotions

Rev. F. H. Willkens led the three devotional services, the speakers being the following Wheeling pastors: Rev. W. D. Lewis, D.D., Rev. James E. Scott, and Rev. Simon Snyder.

Addresses, Sermons and Papers

Tuesday evening—Dr. F. C. Klick—"Shall He Find Faith?"

Wednesday evening—Rev. T. Hilgeman, Missionary at Yoyang, Hunan, China, spoke on "The Will of God in World Relations."

Rev. I. S. McElroy, Secretary of the South Atlantic District of the American Bible Society, addressed the conference.

Three report reviews were presented: Home Missions, by Rev. Edwin Koch; Foreign Missions, by Rev. C. A. Ittel; Christian Education and the Dunkirk Merger Plan, by Rev. F. H. Willkens.

A survey of the religious movement, known as the "New Orthodoxy," was given in the Ministerium by Rev. H. Grunwald.

Resolutions

1. Be it resolved—that the Pennsylvania District record its agreement with the President of the Evangelical Synod in its discernment of the signs of the times, calling earnest attention of the Church to the violent contradiction of a vast part of contemporary civilized society, of the spiritual interpretation of the world, and an ever increasing opposition to the moral ordering of private and social life, on the basis of the Christian ethic;

That the Church be alert to the overt intention of the world to resist the wisdom of God as declared in the Gospel and the overtures of His

spirit to the uttermost, and that the Church rightly appraise the cunning and the strength of her adversary;

That we affirm with the President our firm conviction that the Church is the supreme hope for the world, because of her incomparable leadership in Jesus Christ; and

That we observe and heed the messages and pronouncements of the Oxford and Edinburgh Conferences, particularly the proposal that the Church "demonstrate to the unbelieving world that there really is a fellowship in Christ which binds men into a higher unity than the secular world can produce," and that consequently and also in view of our own hitherto singular achievement for Christian unity we be determined to let no purely human calculation frustrate the unification of Christendom.

2. The Pennsylvania District expresses and records its gratitude to Dr. F. C. Klick for his untiring efforts during the nearly four years of leadership of our Church, and we acknowledge and commend his faithful and consecrated devotion to the duties of his high office in this strategic period of transition.

3. The Pennsylvania District approves the division of the Church into Synods, as proposed by the Committee on Constitution and Charter, and requests the General Synod to establish the synod in which our District is to be included; provided, however, that the legal existence of this District shall continue until it shall have disposed or divested itself of all property, rights, and powers, belonging to or vested in it. The District assents to any minor changes in boundaries that may seem to the General Synod to be advisable or necessary.

4. We remember with sorrow the passing of Brother H. L. Streich, who so faithfully carried on the work of the Brotherhood and Women's Union, and in many other ways effectively served his Church. We also regret the passing of a large number of our brethren.

5. We acknowledge and commend the Director of Our Larger Kingdom Service for his untiring efforts in behalf of the promotion of the united work of our Church in the raising of the Synodical Budget to a paying basis, as well as in behalf of the liquidation of our denominational indebtedness.

6. We express profound regret that our Larger Kingdom Service Director has seen fit to substitute the "Sale of Participation" plan for the direct appeal for outright contributions and tithes, even though these did not yet yield the desired results in our debt Liquidation Campaign; and that the Pennsylvania District cannot accept the new plan as an expression of the best stewardship principles. In the Kingdom the superior term of "giving" cannot be outdone by "buying" and "investments," terms which imply the strategy of the market place. (Evidently the major emphasis has been misunderstood. This emphasis is not on "buying" and "investment," but on "SHARING," a fundamental Christian principle. Sharing in this instance, however, is possible only through the investment in and purchase of "participation

shares." Hence the challenge to buy *shares*.—J. P. Meyer, Director of Kingdom Service.)

7. The Pennsylvania District urgently requests all of its congregations and ministers to be unrelenting in their efforts to discharge their just obligation in the campaign for the liquidation of our Synodical indebtedness, but also records its opinion that special promotional efforts be directed very intensely toward those who have thus far not cooperated.

8. The Pennsylvania District expresses its agreement with the Director of the Larger Kingdom Service in his analysis of the moral status of contemporary society and in the placing of just responsibility for present conditions with the Church because of the wide-spread faithlessness among professing Christians. We concur also with the Director in the challenge that the Church take inventory to determine if she has the equipment of modern organization and the consecrated leadership to re-direct society into more creative channels.

9. We hope and pray that in spite of financial obstacles the actual merger of the two Mission Boards of the "E" and "R" groups will be consummated at an early date, and that the united Boards then will be able to proceed to even greater kingdom work which is so vital to counteract the forces of evil prevalent in our days.

10. We commend the Church Extension Board for its wise and judicious administration and investment of the funds of this branch of our Church.

11. We recommend the continuation of the six-page rotogravure containing many interesting pictures from the five foreign fields of the Evangelical and Reformed Church because of its excellent educational value regarding our foreign mission fields.

12. We express our gratification over the frequent exchange of missionaries on the part of the Boards of the "E" and "R" groups, thus interesting the members of our Church in the larger program of the united Church. We also find ourselves in hearty accord with the proposed new venture in Africa.

13. We recommend to the Executive Committee to consider seriously the advisability of using the Federal Council's Lenten leaflet instead of issuing its own.

14. We overture the General Synod to amend By-Law 105 of the Constitution and By-Laws to read:

"The Board of Pensions and Relief shall consist of twelve members, eight of whom shall be ministers and four shall be lay-members. Ten of the members of the Board shall be elected by the General Synod and these shall elect the other two, subject to the approval of the General Council."

15. The Pennsylvania District is of the opinion that for economic reasons the editorial and business offices of all publications should be consolidated and located in St. Louis, Mo., the place of publication.

16. In view of the increasing complexity of our social relationships and because of the earnest plea coming to us from the Oxford Confer-

ence on Church, State, and Community, that our churches join in a crusade against all those forces threatening the Christian community; be it resolved that we urge our churches to put a greater emphasis upon the Christian Social Action Program.

17. We are happy to note the Board of Christian Education's complete cooperation with other boards of the Church and particularly with the entire program of Kingdom Service, but feel that there should also be a more definite relationship between the Board and our educational institutions.

18. We rejoice with the Board of Christian Education in the increased budget allowance for 1938, but still, considering the apportionment too meager, we reiterate our resolution of a year ago, emphatically protesting the unfair discrimination against the Board of Religious Education in the matter of budget allotment and demand that a revision of these figures be made upward so as to be proportionate to the allowance made to the other Boards.

19. We wish to commend the Women's Union for its splendid work in the past year. We feel sure that Mrs. Reichenbach, as Executive Secretary, will be a worthy successor to the late Rev. H. L. Streich, who made such a vital contribution to the work of the Women's Union.

20. We commend the Women's Union in its emphasis on the Fellowship of Direct Givers and hope that the coming year will see additional societies and individuals turning from questionable money-making schemes to consecrated and sacrificial giving to the cause of the Kingdom.

21. The Pennsylvania District, in its Fortieth Conference, meeting in Wheeling, W. Va., May 17-19, 1938, acts as by common consent and by unanimous resolution, to divest itself of, or relinquish, all rights, both real and personal, administrative and functional, in the Home for the Aged, situated at Dorseyville, Pennsylvania, an institution incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a corporation of the said Pennsylvania District of the Evangelical Synod of North America, to the proposed Pittsburgh Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, its logical and legal successor of that portion of the Pennsylvania District within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania wherein is situated the said Home for the Aged, when said Synod comes into being and begins to operate.

It is further resolved that the said Pennsylvania District, in conference assembled in Wheeling, W. Va., May 17-19, 1938, grants to its constituent congregations located in said section of the Pennsylvania District situated within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and to the Board of Directors of the said Home for the Aged, or their duly appointed representatives, power to properly transfer all property, holdings, instruments and collateral, titled in and held under the name of the Home for the Aged at Dorseyville, Pennsylvania.

22. Since the Pennsylvania District as such will be dissolved with the merger about to be consummated, we recommend that any treasury

balance left after all outstanding obligations are met shall be equally divided between Dunkirk and the Home for the Aged.

23. The Pennsylvania District emphatically reiterates its wholehearted approval of the Constitution of the Evangelical and Reformed Church; deeply regrets that the recent disturbing circularization of certain Evangelical laymen and pastors with its threatening to undo a four years' venture of implicit faith was not averted; affirms its complete confidence in the ultimate success of the venture and the solution of the indebtedness problems of the "E" as well as the "R" group without any injury to either; and demands such action of the General Synod, to be convened at Columbus, Ohio, a month hence, as will definitely consummate the merger.

Received into Membership

During the conference Rev. E. Spindler and Rev. Wm. Walch, both graduates of Eden Seminary, were received into the Synod.

Elections

The following were elected as delegates to the General Synod:

Minister—Rev. J. R. C. Haas.

Layman—Mr. Herbert D. Schaefer.

Alternates—Rev. O. W. Breuhaus and Mr. Henry Krieg.

APPROVED: J. R. C. Haas, Moderator.

H. Grunwald, Secretary.

MINUTES
of the
8th CONFERENCE
of the
SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Held in
St. John Evangelical Church, Birmingham, Alabama
Rev. C. H. Kluge, Pastor
May 12-15, 1938

Services

The 8th Conference of the Southern District convened at St. John's Evangelical Church, Birmingham, Ala., Rev. C. H. Kluge, pastor, on May 12-15, 1938.

The Rev. F. C. Schweinfurth was elected Moderator and Rev. Theo. F. Mehl, Vice-Moderator.

Devotions

All devotions were given by Rev. Theo. Van Dyck—
"Achieving the Will of God—through Self-surrender."
"Achieving the Will of God—through Prayer."
"Achieving the Will of God—through Meditation."
"Achieving the Will of God—through Fellowship."

Sermons and Papers

Thursday morning—Rev. F. A. Meusch, Synodical Representative—
Holy Communion and Memorial Service.

Thursday evening—Rev. N. Zulauf—"The Will of God in an Age of Conflict."

Friday evening—Rev. Herman Borne—"The Will of God in World Relations."

Sunday morning—Rev. J. P. Meyer, D.D.—"Don't You Care?"

Sunday evening—Rev. A. J. Scherer—"The Will of God in the Church."

Rev. O. A. Meyer—"The Equalization of Ministers' Salaries."

Resolutions

1. Resolved: That the Southern District reaffirms its faith in the Plan of Union, but in view of the fact that both parties of the merger have so far been unable to meet the obligation of the debt liquidation as specifically stated in the Plan of Union and in the face of possible legal complications which may arise, we petition the Executive Committee of the General Synod to postpone the General Synod for two

years. In the event the General Synod cannot be postponed, then we demand that the declaration of the adoption of the Constitution be postponed until such time that the conditions of the Plan of Union be met and that we continue to function until then as heretofore.

2. Resolved: That the Southern District join the Synod in mourning the loss it sustained in the passing of the Rev. H. L. Streich who faithfully served the Synod as Executive Secretary of the Evangelical Brotherhood and the Evangelical Women's Union and at the end as Executive Secretary of the General Council.

3. Resolved: That the Southern District approves the division of the Church into Synods, as proposed by the Committee on Constitution and Charter, and requests the General Synod to establish the Synod in which our District is to be included; provided, however, that the legal existence of this District shall continue until it shall have disposed or divested itself of all property, rights, and powers, belonging to or vested in it. The District assents to any minor changes in boundaries that may seem to the General Synod to be advisable or necessary.

4. We recommend to the officials of the seminary that steps be taken to create an endowment fund, the proceeds of which are to be used to cover annual convocation expenses.

5. We request that the General Synod appoint a committee, with the modest financial appropriation at its disposal, to study the salary situation of our pastors, endeavoring to realize a two-fold objective: a recommended minimum salary, and the formation of a voluntary group looking towards the equalization of salaries.

6. As a Church we emphatically protest against the proposed re-armament race of our government, believing that such a course will induce war rather than avoid it. In its stead we urge the establishment of positive good-will relationships between nations.

7. Resolved: That the Southern District recommends the merger of the National Mission Boards, providing each Board makes adequate provision in regard to its indebtedness.

8. The Southern District, feeling that the name "Home Missions" has more significance, recommends that this name be retained and the term "National" be eliminated.

9. We of the Southern District urge the General Synod not to accept any new fields in the Foreign Mission work, until we have liquidated our indebtedness.

10. The Southern District recommends the adoption of the new Pension Plan as presented on pages 132-133 in the Synodical reports, and insists that no congregation be allowed to reduce the minister's salary in order to meet this pension premium.

11. The Southern District overtures the General Synod to amend By-Law 105 of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Evangelical and Reformed Church adopted by the General Synod in 1936 to read: "The Board of Pensions and Relief shall consist of twelve members, eight of

whom shall be ministers and four shall be lay members. Ten of the members of the Board shall be elected by the General Synod and these shall elect the other two, subject to the approval of the General Council.

12. We commend the Kingdom Service Director for his efficient and effective manner in which he has promoted the Larger Kingdom program of the Synod, in particular the success he has thus far attained in the debt liquidation campaign. We urge that the campaign be continued for another twelve months, or until the remainder of the debt is liquidated.

13. In regard to the basis for computing the denominational apportionments, the Southern District favors the minority report and recommendations as found on the bottom of page thirty-three, Reports of Synodical Officers and Boards.

14. We definitely oppose any further expansion on the part of existing boards in entailing an increase in the annual budget of the Boards, until the debt has been liquidated.

15. The Southern District commends the Board of Publications in its difficult endeavor to render efficient service without incurring financial loss, but recommends that the publication of the "Messenger" remain the joint financial responsibility of the Board of Publications and the Board of Christian Education.

16. In the interest of achieving the objectives of the merger, we recommend that the editorial and business offices of the "Messenger" be consolidated and located in St. Louis, avoiding duplication of working personnel.

17. We would suggest the word "adjustment" instead of "equalization" with reference to the salaries of ministers, it being our opinion that the word "adjustment" would be more appropriate. (Laymen's Resolution.)

18. The Southern District petitions the Board of Directors of the Synod and the Church Extension Board to re-adjust the principal indebtedness of the Bethel Congregation, New Orleans, taking into consideration the present property value and the congregation's ability to pay.

19. The planning of the next district conference shall be left in the hands of the District Council.

20. The Southern District rescinds its former resolution in regard to the time of the conference, namely that the conference shall open on Thursday morning and close Monday at noon.

Received into Membership

The Rev. Theo. Van Dyck was received into the District by the President, the Rev. Theo. F. Mehl, according to the Evangelical ritual and custom.

Elections

District Officers

President, Rev. A. J. Scherer
Vice-President, Rev. Theo. F. Mehl
Secretary, Rev. C. H. Kluge
Treasurer, Mr. H. J. Eberhardt

District Council

Rev. Herman S. Ritter
Mr. Wm. Johnston
Mr. Arthur Peters

Home Mission Board

Rev. F. C. Schweinfurth (6 years)
Rev. Otto A. Meyer (4 years)
Mr. Frank Motzkus (6 years)
Mr. F. M. Sondes (4 years)

Board of Religious Education

Rev. Herman Borne
Mrs. A. L. Rau

General Council

Rev. Theo. F. Mehl
Mr. A. C. Ricks

Delegates to the General Synod

Minister—Rev. F. C. Schweinfurth
Layman—Mr. A. C. Ricks
Alternates—Rev. L. Schweickhardt and Mr. Arthur Peters

The District Conference adjourned after the Sunday evening service.
APPROVED: F. C. Schweinfurth, Moderator.

Theo. F. Mehl, President.

A. J. Scherer, Secretary.

MINUTES
of the
49th CONFERENCE
of the
SOUTH ILLINOIS DISTRICT

Held in
St. Paul Evangelical Church, Nashville, Illinois
Rev. Reinhard Krause, Pastor
May 3-5, 1938

Services

The 49th Conference of the South Illinois District was held in St. Paul's Evangelical Church, Nashville, Ill., Rev. Reinhard Krause, minister, May 3-5, 1938.

Two services of worship were held in which the following were speakers: Rev. H. H. Wintermeyer, "How Can We Know the Will of God," and Dr. L. W. Goebel, "The Church's Ground for Hope."

Devotions and Meditations

Rev. C. H. Kuhlmann—"God Does Not Forget His Promises."

Rev. James Ingram—"Achieving the Will of God through Self-surrender."

Rev. John Mauthe—"Achieving the Will of God through Service."

Rev. Otto Bassler—"Achieving the Will of God through Fellowship with Christ."

Addresses

Dr. Paul S. Leinbach, Editor-in-Chief of "The Messenger," addressed the Conference on the theme, "The Will of God in an Age of Conflict."

Resolutions

1. The South Illinois District heartily approves the new Pension Plan as presented by the Board of Pension and Relief.

2. Having every confidence that the leaders of the merger have the common interest of both parties in mind and will prove capable of meeting whatever situations arise respecting the financial setup, which will not lay the debts of the one upon the other, therefore, be it resolved, that the South Illinois District goes on record favoring the merger, and the new Constitution to go into effect when the respective Church agencies shall have adjusted their outstanding obligations. The District wishes the General Synod at Columbus the approbation of the Almighty upon their efforts.

Elections

The election of delegates to the General Synod resulted as follows:

Ministers—Revs. A. E. Limper, H. J. Bredehoeft, H. H. Wintermeyer, G. A. Friz, and R. Kofer.

Laymen—Messrs. F. Rapp, J. Berger, Geo. Becker, F. Baur, and F. T. Hotz.

Alternates—Revs. E. J. Westerbeck, B. J. Koehler, O. Bassler, O. Brummer, E. R. Jaeger. Messrs. Wm. Heyl, Wm. Hohmann, Geo. Schlesinger, Louis Roman, and Geo. Wirth, Sr.

Respectfully,

A. W. Hoelscher, Secretary.

APPROVED: B. J. Koehler, Moderator.

MINUTES
of the
GOLDEN JUBILEE CONFERENCE
of the
TEXAS DISTRICT

Held in
Redeemer Evangelical Church, Zuehl, Texas
Rev. E. H. Schwengel, Pastor
May 2-5, 1938

Conference Theme: "Our Faith and Its Order."

Services

The 47th Texas District Conference met at the Redeemer Evangelical Church at Zuehl on May 2-5th, 1938. It opened with a Golden Jubilee Service on Monday evening in which Rev. C. Wolff gave the opening address by a genial review of the values in pioneer days and pleaded that the example of faith, loyalty, and sacrifice of the past be carried forward. Rev. R. F. Kuretsch then carried the thought onward by expressing the need for breaking new ground and battling modern evils, expressing fear for a Church satisfied with past laurels, believing that such complacency has ever destroyed Churches.

The Communion Service on Tuesday morning was conducted by Rev. Robt. Mohr and Rev. Wm. Scholze. And Rev. P. C. Kniker conducted the impressive Memorial Service.

Dr. Wm. Baur of Webster Groves, Mo., urged gratitude for the separation of Church and State. He contrasted unideal democratic liberty with the ideal religious liberty that comes from being freed by the truth of God.

In the closing service on Wednesday evening Dr. F. Frankenfeld of Elmhurst, Illinois, indicated that the Church fails in its divine mission if it does not proclaim the sinfulness of man and the all-sufficiency of God. The result of such a proclamation will bring conflict, persecution, and the cross.

Rev. C. Wolff was elected Moderator, and Rev. Wm. Scholze, Vice-moderator.

Devotions

In his devotions on Our Faith and Self-surrender, Rev. Uhlhorn offered an interpretation of self-surrender as dying daily to sin and surrendering the self on each new day.

Prof. Wm. Baur showed the absurdity of anything but a personally experienced faith.

Rev. Martin Ernst, in a careful study of John 15 brought out a contrast between spiritual health and spiritual anemia.

Dr. F. Frankenfeld pointed out that if we would build better churches, we must build better homes, and that the problems of the Home must be the deep concern of the Church: magazines, sex education, movies, schools, and environment, as such, are the business of the Church.

Rev. Schroerluke in his "Ordering our Faith in Service" gave a meditation on service growing from actual and personal experience as contrasted with the spiritual hitch-hiking so common today.

Rev. H. H. Schowe defined prayer as an outreach of trustful belief. Generally our prayers have an "if" in them, and often we place that "if" in the wrong place. It's not whether the Lord can help, but whether man believes.

Addresses

Rev. Ernst Press spoke on "Our Faith, its Educational Program," and urged that all teaching technics be respected, and that teaching traditions, especially Confirmation, be uncompromised, because, "educating the mind and not the morals is to educate a menace to society."

Rev. F. Rueggeberg contrasted "primer praying" with "man-sized praying." The former seeks to change God and use Him, the latter breaks our selfish will and adjusts our self to God's will.

Rev. Edwin Berger focused the obligation of faith to society. He indicated great need in the field of making our faith practical in life as being a learning and fearless applying of technics needed to combat the various problems of unemployment, war, nationalism, etc.

Rev. R. W. Schaefer, speaking on "The Spiritual Motivation of Faith," claimed that despite all imperfection of the Church, it is the most glorious motive of creative life today.

Rev. E. F. Abele presented facts and ideas on the new Pension System, and Dr. Frankenfeld made a great and concluding contribution to the Conference by picturing our Larger Kingdom Service, and pleading for a whole-hearted support from every congregation.

Principal Resolutions

1. The Texas District overtures the General Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church in its coming session at Columbus, Ohio, to amend the Constitution and By-Laws of the merged Church with reference to By-Law 105 to read as follows: "The Board of Pensions and Relief shall consist of twelve members, eight of whom shall be ministers and four shall be lay-members. Ten of the members of the members of the Board shall be elected by the General Synod, and these shall elect the other two, subject to the approval of the General Council."

2. The Texas District is entirely willing that the merger of the Evangelical Synod of North America and the Reformed Church in the U. S. be consummated at Columbus, Ohio, even though neither of the two groups involved has thus far been successful as per agreement in

the Plan of Union, to liquidate all debts, and places full confidence in the action of the coming General Synod to adjust the financial problems which the impending merger has projected.

3. The Texas District approves the division of the Church into Synods, as proposed by the Committee on Constitution and Charter, and requests the General Synod to establish the Synod in which our District is to be included; provided, however, that the legal existence of this District shall continue until it shall have disposed, or divested itself, of all property, rights, and powers, belonging to or vested in it. The District assents to any minor changes in boundaries that may seem to the General Synod to be advisable or necessary.

4. The Texas District goes on record as willing to cooperate wholeheartedly in the immediate program of the Larger Kingdom Service as presented by Dr. F. Frankenfeld and that we will carry on until the task is completed.

5. The District empowers the District Council to deal with those churches in our District that are not functioning any longer.

The 50th Anniversary Committee, composed of the Reverends D. Baltzer, J. Jaworski, and J. J. Kasiske, will publish a souvenir booklet with a historical sketch of the Texas District, to be ready soon after the conference.

Received into Membership

Rev. G. P. Ronicke was voted into full membership of the Synod, and the St. James Congregation of Ben Arnold was received into the membership of the Synod, effective on the date of the granting of a charter.

Elections

The following delegates were elected to represent the District at the General Synod:

Ministers—Revs. C. Wolff, R. Mohr, R. F. Kuretsch.

Laymen—Messrs. C. W. Pfluger, H. Elley, Dr. Phil. Meyer.

Alternates—Reverends D. Baltzer, F. Schaefer, F. Ruggeberg, and Messrs. F. W. Witt, J. Speckles, and H. Stuessel.

APPROVED: C. Wolff, President.

R. F. Kuretsch, Secretary.

MINUTES
of the
46th CONFERENCE
of the
WEST MISSOURI DISTRICT
Held in
St. Luke's Evangelical Church, Independence, Missouri
Rev. A. F. Schultz, Pastor
April 26-28, 1938

Services

The 45th Conference of the West Missouri District was opened with a Communion Service held at 10:00 A.M. on April 26th, 1938. The service was in charge of the Rev. Fred Stoerker and the Rev. Oscar J. Rumpf. Following this service the committees began their work. The business session of the Conference opened with the election of Rev. Theo. Hauck as Moderator and Mr. L. O. Schaumburg as Vice-moderator.

Devotions

The devotional meetings were led by the Rev. O. Schroedel.

Addresses, Papers and Sermons

Tuesday evening—Rev. D. C. Jensen spoke, urging that all Christians be more concerned about the development of the home.

Wednesday evening—Dr. Timothy Lehmann spoke of the need for "joyful suffering" on the part of Christians. He said the Cross was the individual responsibility of all.

Dr. Silas P. Bittner spoke concerning the Christian's faith in eternal life.

Rev. Paul Niedermeyer led the Memorial Service.

Rev. Chas. Schwantes—"The Conflict Between Christian Values and World Values."

Rev. Elmer Ansley—"Enrichment of Worship."

Resolutions

1. We uphold the resolution of the General Council of September 8, 1937, that the subscription rate of the "Messenger" remain \$2.00 and not be increased to \$2.50. We are of the opinion that the subscription rate should be reduced in order to increase circulation. Furthermore, we think that the overhead should be reduced, feeling that it is absolutely unnecessary to maintain two editorial offices and two business offices.

2. The Board of Directors of the Evangelical Student Congregation at Missouri University asks the Missouri and West Missouri Districts of the Evangelical Synod of N. A. to make the following overtures to the General Synod: 1) That the Evangelical and Reformed congregations within the State of Missouri be entrusted with the supervision of the Evangelical Student Congregation at Missouri University; 2) That a Board of Directors for this purpose be constituted in such a way as will make it representative of the congregations and their organizations within the state; 3) That the Board of Christian Education be recognized as a co-ordinating agency.

3. Resolved that the Mutual Fire and Storm Insurance Association be requested to incorporate the supplemental contract in all policies in force.

4. Resolved that the Mutual Fire and Storm Association be requested to solicit only church property and pastors' household goods and not to compete with private interests.

5. The West Missouri District approves the division of the Church into Synods as proposed by the Committee on Constitution and Charter, and requests the General Synod to establish the Synod in which our District is to be included; providing, however, that the legal existence of this District shall continue until it shall have disposed or divested itself of all property, rights, and powers, belonging to or vested in it. The District assents to any minor changes in boundaries that may seem to the General Synod to be advisable or necessary.

6. The West Missouri District feels that our first duty is to raise the budget 100%; but we also urge the churches to complete their obligations to the synodical debt liquidation as soon as possible.

7. Be it resolved by the West Missouri District that the approval heretofore given by the West Missouri District to the adoption of the Constitution and By-laws of the Evangelical and Reformed Church be reconsidered.

8. Be it resolved that in withholding, at this time, our approval of said Constitution, it is to be understood that the District does approve the ultimate final consummation and completion of the merger of the two denominations as soon as the debts of the two denominations and their respective Boards shall have either been paid, or until at least a reasonably sound financial plan shall have been devised by both groups to retire such obligations in such a manner and such time as shall give assurance that those financial obligations will not hazard or defeat the successful attainment and accomplishment of those noble purposes and high ideals which we all desire to attain and to accomplish through the union.

We understand that the negotiations for the merger of the two denominations were conducted, and we think wisely so, on the theory and with the understanding that these financial obligations would be paid, or that plans and arrangements mentioned would be devised before the completion of the union; that it was then thought that those

purposes could be accomplished by now, but they have not been accomplished. Therefore, we are not in accord with the view that a delay in taking the step to finally complete the merger, until one or the other of those things can be done, is not in harmony with the spirit that prompted the promotion of the union, nor do we sanction the attitude that because these things could not be done, or have not been done by now, we should either abandon placing our respective houses in financial order preceding the merger, or abandon the merger.

We are not in accord with any declarations which, whether directly or indirectly, impugn the motives either of those who agree, or those who disagree, with our convictions upon the subject. We recognize that the motives and purposes of all of those concerned is to see and do the will of God in connection with this subject, not to defeat it; but to advance the Kingdom of God among men, not to impede it.

Elections

The following delegates were elected to the General Synod:

Ministers—Rev. Theo. Hauck and Rev. S. P. Bittner, D.D.

Laymen—Mr. LaRoy O. Shaumberg and Mr. Carl Bosch.

Alternates—Revs. Fred. Stoerker and E. F. Abele and Messrs. Hugo Webbink and Louis Bahrenburg.

Adjournment

The Conference came to a close at 2:30 P.M., April 28th.

APPROVED: Theo. Hauck, Moderator.

Oscar J. Rumpf, Secretary.

MINUTES
of the
47th CONFERENCE
of the
WISCONSIN DISTRICT

Held in
St. Paul Evangelical Church, Wausau, Wisconsin
Rev. E. C. Grauer, Pastor
April 27-29, 1938

Services

The 47th Conference of the Wisconsin District was opened with a Communion Service on Wednesday afternoon, April 27 at 2:00 o'clock. The altar service was in charge of the Rev. E. C. Grauer, the pastor loci, assisted by the Rev. P. C. Kehle. The Rev. Theo. P. Frohne delivered the sermon on the text—Luke 14: 17.

The Conference elected its President, Rev. P. C. Kehle, as Moderator, and its Vice-president, Rev. Theo. P. Frohne, as Vice-Moderator.

Devotions

Prof. John Biegeleisen of Eden Theological Seminary delivered three timely, thought-provoking devotions.

Sermons and Addresses

Wednesday evening—Rev. H. A. Crusius—Sermon on Luke 24: 32.

Thursday evening—Dr. F. C. Klick—Sermon on Luke 18: 8, emphasizing the need of faith.

Thursday noon—Rev. H. Stahmer, pastor of the First Methodist Church at Wausau, related his impressions of his recent trip to Germany.

Thursday supper—Prof. Biegeleisen, a student of "Church and State" problems, spoke to us.

Friday morning—Rev. A. Dreusicke—presented the New Pension Plan.

Resolutions

1. With the entire denomination we mourn the departure of the Rev. H. L. Streich, who had served also our District in various capacities and on many occasions. Prompted by his passing and that of so many other faithful pastors and lay-members during the course of the conference year, we pray, "Lord, keep us faithful unto the very end!"

2. We urge that continuous and increasing efforts be put forth to liquidate the synodical indebtedness, but warn of fantastic and vain methods which but fritter away precious time and strength. There is, after all, only one way of securing the funds required and that is incessantly to impress upon our pastors and members the absolute need of debt liquidation. The attention must, however, be focused especially upon those congregations that, as yet, have not responded with their contributions, or have responded but feebly and unsatisfactorily. The District hereby, through the pastors and lay delegates assembled, pledges itself to put forth sincere efforts to do its part in lifting the debt.

3. The Wisconsin District approves the division of the Church into Synods, as proposed by the Committee on Constitution and Charter, and requests the General Synod to establish the Synod in which our District is to be included; provided, however, that the legal existence of this District shall continue until it shall have disposed or divested itself, of all property, rights, and powers, belonging to or vested in it. The District assents to any minor changes in boundaries that may seem to the General Synod to be advisable or necessary.

4. The Wisconsin District, though aware of the fact that many difficulties are still lying in the path of the attempt completely to merge the Offices, Boards, and Commissions of the two branches of the united Church, yet urges that the work of the merger be completed and all unnecessary offices be discontinued just as soon as possible; it insists, however, that the Constitution and the By-Laws of the united Church be not declared adopted and the merger be not declared in effect until each of the two branches has met the problems of its indebtedness to the satisfaction of our Board of Directors and the leaders of the "R" group.

5. The Wisconsin District is of the decided opinion that the Commission on Christian Social Action be given all possible encouragement by the leadership and membership of the united Church to carry on its very important work.

6. We urgently invite the fifteen non-synodical churches of this District to join the Synod, and thus avail themselves of the protection and privileges which a closer fellowship can assure.

7. That the Wisconsin District unconditionally opposes the assumption of any regular pastorate in an Evangelical Church in the District by a professor of the Mission House.

8. The Wisconsin District goes on record as being opposed to a Mission House student or graduate supplying a pastorless Evangelical Church, without the written consent of the District President.

9. The Wisconsin District deplores the fact that the needed funds for the Binner Memorial have been only partially secured, and encourages the committee to further continue with this worthy effort.

Received into Membership

The Rev. Henry Meier was received into the membership of the Wisconsin District.

The Wisconsin District also recommended that St. Jacobi Church of Richfield (Rev. Paul Kaiser, pastor) be received into membership as soon as its creedal statement is brought into conformity with the synodical requirements.

Rev. John Weeke's application for membership was also favorably acted upon and he was requested to renew the same a year hence, according to synodical requirement.

Elections

Delegates to the General Synod are as follows:

Ministers—Revs. P. C. Kehle, Wm. Schlinkmann, D.D., E. C. Grauer, and M. M. Schmidt.

Laymen—Messrs. Chas. Wiechering, Frank Boettcher, Otto Grauer, and J. W. Niemann.

Alternates—Rev. Theo. P. Frohne, H. A. Crusius, A. Friz, C. Hammen, and Messrs. Henry Berner, John Weckmueller, Martin Anderson, and Aaron Klug.

Mr. Wm. Helz was again elected to the membership of the General Council.

Adjournment

Following the adjournment of the Conference at noon Friday, the Rev. Carl Nagel conducted the memorial service.

APPROVED: Rev. P. C. Kehle, Moderator.

H. A. Crusius, Secretary.

